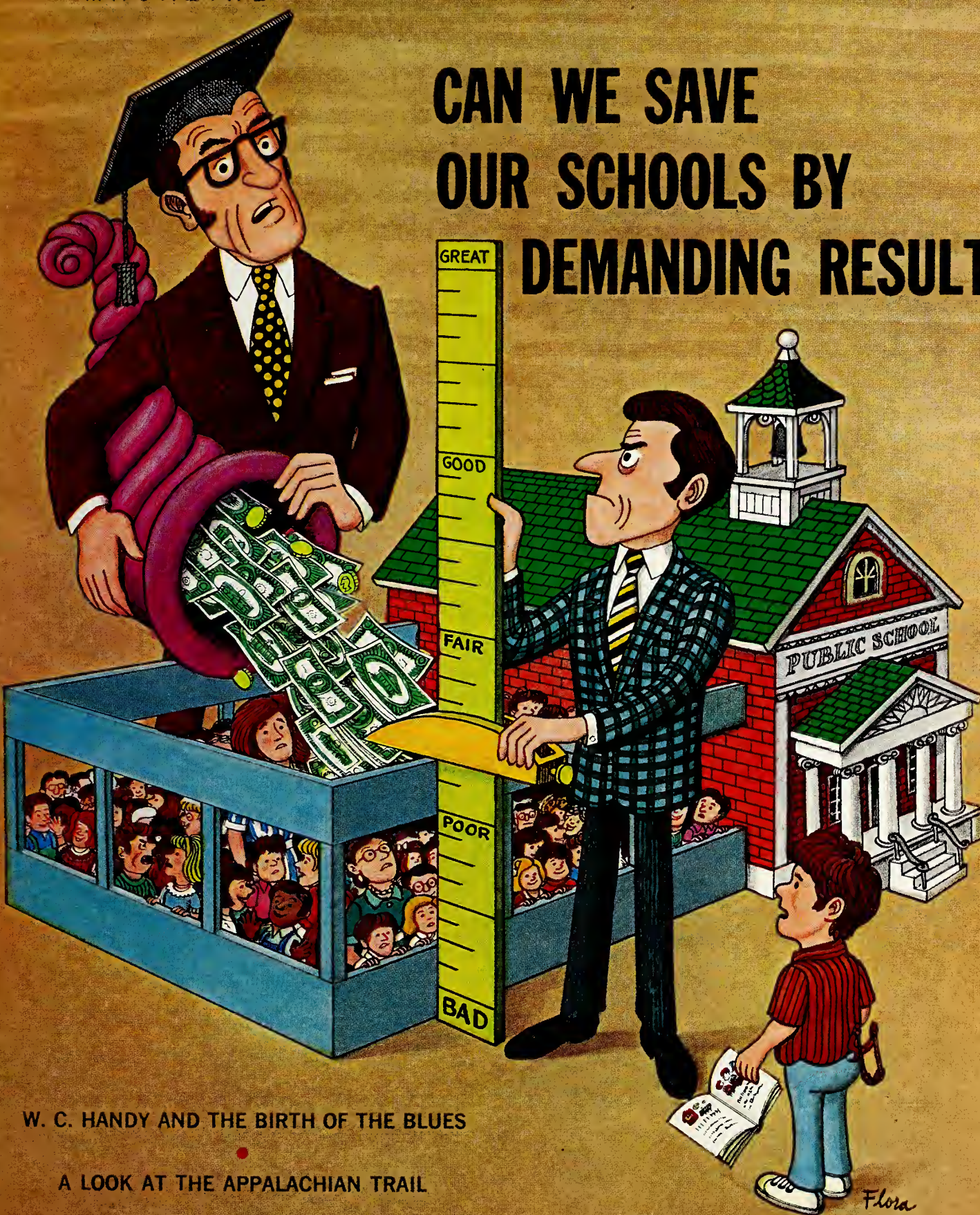


# LEGION

MAGAZINE

**CAN WE SAVE  
OUR SCHOOLS BY  
DEMANDING RESULTS?**



W. C. HANDY AND THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES

A LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL



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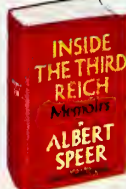
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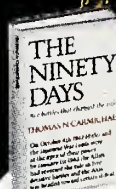
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The American

# LEGION

Magazine

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AUGUST 1972

Volume 93, Number 2

National Commander

John H. Geiger

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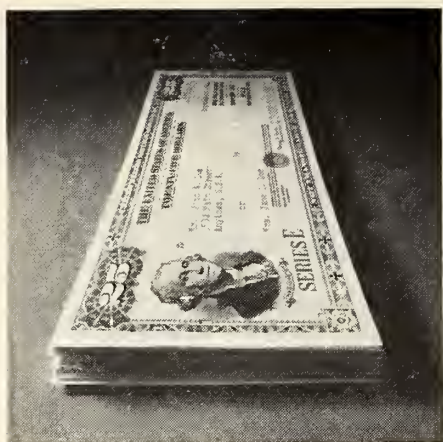
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### WW2 CODE-BREAKERS

SIR: Harvey Ardman's article, "U.S. Code-Breakers vs. Japanese Code-Breakers in WW2" (May), was to me a truly sensational revelation.

During the early months of 1942, I served from time to time as security officer at the highly secret War Room on Constitution Ave., in Washington, where was displayed the latest and most classified intelligence on thousands of square feet of maps covering the entire world of the conflict. I was constantly amazed at the projected accuracy of coming events, the day-by-day location of ships by names and by numbers, the eventual confrontation and the resultant scratching of many of them from the board.

We did not discuss such matters among ourselves, but we wondered how military intelligence could be accommodated with such valuable data. Now, 30 years later, we know. Our thanks to Mr. Ardman.

GEORGE A. BRIDGERS  
Beltsville, Md.

### THE AMNESTY QUESTION

SIR: I have just completed reading "The Amnesty Question for Draft Evaders: Are They All the Same?" (May), and I feel it has given me a better idea of the subject and the complications of the problem. I agree with you that each case should be looked at in an individual manner to give each the benefit of justice.

Until I read the article, I felt they (the evaders) should be left in the country they fled to and should never be allowed to return. I believe your solution is much better.

I find it a little repulsive to hear these evaders demand unconditional repatriation, and amnesty.

ERLING A. DAHL  
Hettinger, N. D.

### CONCERNING THE WANKEL

SIR: Your recent article regarding the Wankel rotary engine ("On the Way: A Completely Different Auto Engine," March) was so very technically complete and vastly interesting that I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you.

ALBERT M. HAGLER  
Huntington Beach, Calif.

### ON VA HOSPITAL CARE

SIR: I was recently a patient at the VA Hospital in Los Angeles (Wadsworth). I would like to express my gratitude to all the doctors and nurses for the wonderful care and treatment that I received during my two-week stay. I was so fortunate to have my wife near me during my stay because she was able to live at the "Hospitality House," which is made available to all the wives who come to be with their husbands during their stay. The lodging facilities for her were so nice and the treatment she received was wonderful. We were happy to find the "Hospitality House" had been donated by *The American Legion*.

CLIFFORD MARTIN  
Visalia, Calif.

### ON DISABLED VETERANS COMPENSATION

SIR: I thank the Legion representatives for asking the Senate Subcommittee on Compensation and Pensions for a cost-of-living increase in compensation for war veterans rated 100% disabled. (*Veterans Newsletter*, June.)

The two other requests made are, I am sure, deserving of approval. The one concerning deaths of veterans from natural causes but with service-connected disabilities rated permanent and total will benefit the families of such veterans.

As a totally disabled veteran I know an increase is long overdue and desperately needed.

I thank the Legion for interceding for me.

JAMES C. STOUT  
Columbus, Tex.

### REGRETFUL CANCELLATION

SIR: We regret to say that after 24 years of existence, Marie Joseph Academy is closing this June.

We come to tell you how we appreciated the good articles published in *The American Legion Magazine*, and so graciously furnished to our library during these last years. May you continue to prosper and serve in the future for the good of the many scholars who read your publication.

SISTER CAROLINE-MARIE  
Marie Joseph Academy  
Biddeford, Maine

### ATTN: GIs AT TIDWORTH, ENGLAND

SIR: For research on a book about the garrison at Tidworth, Hampshire, England, I would like to hear from any Americans stationed there. A recounting of impressions is hoped for, along with photos taken there.

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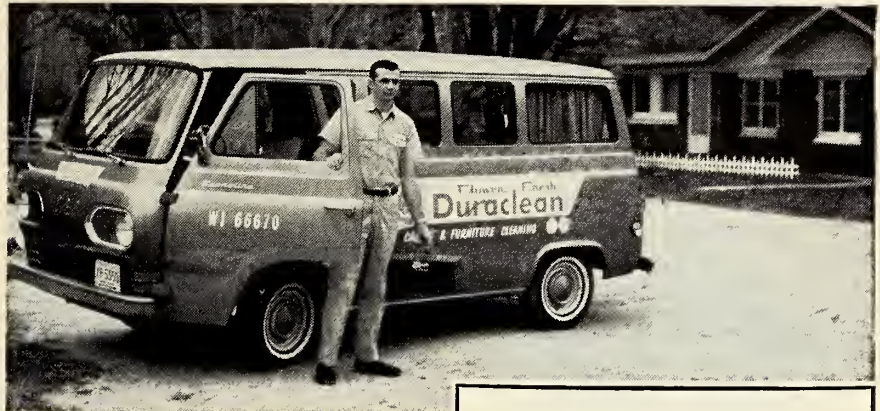
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# Can We Save Our Schools by



By **JERRY POURNELLE, Ph.D.**

If the schools had to show progress in student achievement they could probably do it. In the absence of such requirements many high school graduates aren't above seventh grade in basic skills.

**A** HARD LOOK at public education in the United States should convince the objective reader that:

1. In spite of the unquestioned excellence of the best features of the best of our public schools and the excellence of their best graduates, the system as a whole is one of the most expensive failures we own.

The intellectual growth and learning that the average American student gets from his schools by no means justifies the cost.

Tens of thousands of public school graduates (not to mention dropouts) go out into the world handicapped by their



# Demanding Results?

ignorance and lack of any sense of direction.

How much, one wonders, is the reputed disillusionment of youth actually a product of the shortcomings of their education?

2. Though many laymen would be surprised to learn it, our public schools have no specific public charge to educate anyone.

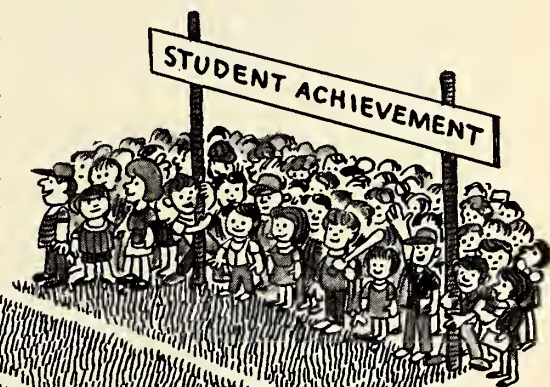
Most citizens assume that the schools are supposed to educate, and many schools accept that assumption. But it is only an assumption, and public education as a whole has successfully resisted all efforts to require it to produce results in terms of student achievement for half a century.

quired to show results in some students, they've done it.

It is possible that many of the worst features of our public schools today have come upon us *because* educators, by and large, have successfully avoided being held publicly accountable for the general level of achievement of their students. Some schools are now giving high school diplomas to "graduates" whose reading and writing are not above seventh-grade level—which is offering false certification as a substitute for performance by such schools.

There's no need to pick on the schools in particular for such weaseling, and the public shares the blame for having let

No sooner was compulsory education universal than the leading educational philosophers—such as those at the fountainhead of authority, Columbia's Teachers College—set up their own mission, while chafing at regulations requiring that any particular subjects be taught. In a nutshell, what they said—and taught to budding teachers—was that with the enormous power over children's minds that compulsory education had thrust into their hands, they were going to use the schools to change our whole society according to their private notions of what it ought to be. They felt accountable to nobody but themselves, and never make any bones about it.



Said Prof. Boyd Bode, of Ohio State University, writing in the basic textbook on the philosophy of education used at Columbia Teachers College in the mid-thirties: "If we could establish a social program, in the manner of Russia, our educational problems would largely disappear." He then made the proper apologies for such a statement, basically faulting the Russian system only because it lacked internal means to change.

The prime mission of the schools, the educational leaders of the thirties taught, was to indoctrinate children in social views and "attitudes." The "correct" views and attitudes were those privately arrived at by the leading educational philosophers. The government of the United States had never been granted such mighty powers as they proposed to preempt, in the absence of performance standards for schools in the laws that required children to attend them.

Not only did they select goals that hadn't been given to the schools by the people, but they sidestepped responsibility to educate along the lines that the voters had in mind when they made education compulsory through their state legislatures.

Let us make no mistake that the rock-bottom purpose of compulsory education was to upgrade the basic three R's skills of American citizenry. What the schools might do beyond that would be all to the

In general, the schools are required by law to be daytime custodians of children, and by regulation to *expose* them to various subjects. But the schools are not required to show results in student progress.

3. Something radical has to be done about public education. Merely spending more money for traditional approaches is a proven failure.

4. No matter what we try with respect to educational gimmicks or new theories, it is long past time to measure the public schools in terms of *results*—to specifically charge the schools with responsibility for progress in learning by all their pupils.

Hopefully, if we will only require the schools to demonstrate student progress, they will come up with the needed changes to produce it by themselves. Until then, they'll only continue to lack any driving motive to lay the yardstick of student performance to their work. As you'll see, where they *have* been re-

50 years of compulsory education go by without requiring results measured by student achievement. If the people in charge of *anything* are allowed to stay in charge without having any performance to live up to, and to certify their own work as they please, you could hardly expect them to perform as they ought to—be they educators, space scientists or what have you.

When NASA's space center was set up in Houston, it was given specific missions such as sending men to the moon. We jolly well expected it to produce and NASA accepted that expectation—measuring its every act in terms of the end result. Not so, when, about 1920, compulsory public education had become nearly universal in the United States. The laws that required children to go to school, and the taxpayers to pay the bill, set no basic standards of performance for those in whose charge our children were placed. Many *subjects* were required by law and regulation—but no reasoned standards of performance were set for the schools to achieve—then or now. About all the laws required was *exposure* to courses.



## Can We Save Our Schools By Demanding Results?

good, but basic student mastery of knowledge and skills was fundamental in the trust that the people and the legislators placed in the schools. There is no historical doubt about that. Shocking figures of illiteracy in the United States provided the prime motive for compulsory education. Between 1910 and 1922, the educators held those figures up as a national disgrace quite as much as anyone else did. In seeking compulsory education, they were the leaders in promising academic achievement if the law would deliver all children to their care. The figures that clinched the case came from the army, based on its revelations of illiteracy among WWI inductees in 1917-1918. Yet, within a few years of the time that compulsory education was nearly universal, educational leaders were downgrading academic skills in favor of teaching unmeasurable and indefinable "attitudes."

A good part of the educational philosophy taught in teachers' colleges 40 years ago (and during the last 40 years) was that the voters and legislators are a stupid lot, with contradictory notions inside their own heads. The teachers' college textbooks selected different sections of the public, one by one, and ridiculed them. This was a declaration of independence from public interference or direction except to pay the bills. Measurable accomplishment in learning was downgraded. Good teachers of various subjects were looked down on as "subject matter teachers"—an epithet almost guaranteed to prevent promotion of able classroom teachers. As one result, today, many colleges and industries are giving remedial reading to high school graduates. Some of them are succeeding in a few months where the schools failed in 12 years. The major discernible difference is that the colleges and industries are setting results as their targets.

One of the biggest gaps in our public school education has been the gap in learning between the college-bound and the non college-bound. An essential difference in their training has long been that standards of students progress were imposed from the outside which the schools had to live up to for the college-bound, while there were *none* for the majority who were not college-bound.

The non college students needed only to be exposed, but the colleges demanded learning. They refused to accept public school graduates who were deficient in *achievement* in languages, history, science, math or reading/writing ability. Here were standards of results to which the schools *were* held, and for decades they more or less proved the value of requiring results.

The college-bound public school grad-

uate has long been the best educated, while an enormous percentage of those who are not college-bound leave the public schools with little useful knowledge—or skills—and a crushing sense of inferiority, in spite of years of attendance and billions spent on them.

This experience has its heartening side for the future. It suggests that if the people will demand results for all, as the colleges have for some—and provide what is needed *based on results*—our non college-bound students may yet come out better educated, without any other radical change. The schools can show the way if they have to. "Having to" is a major missing ingredient.

But, today, the colleges are slashing their standards and accepting students who are far below the minimum requirements of the past. We are already becoming numb in our acceptance of the fact that college professors are now undertaking to teach skills which used to be learned in grade school (though some of them are resigning in protest). Today, with their open enrollments and their three R's classes, the colleges are deserting their role as standard setters for the schools, leaving the whole field to the public or nobody.

The attempt of educational leaders to downgrade formal education, while trying to use the schools to "remake" society on their own, instead, was more natural than one might think. Any people who give vast control to a profession to shape the minds of their young, without giving it any defined mission, invite that profession either to grope or to follow the ambitions of its most power-hungry members.

Looking back, it is easy to see that it was a near fatal mistake for the people to deliver their children to a system by law, while leaving an open end to how well they'd be taught what.

It might have been better, in 1920, to have required each town to *provide* a good education to anyone who *wanted* it, rather than to require compulsory attendance. The schools then would have been on their mettle from the start, which might have saved a lot of today's mess. As it was, we legally emphasized *attendance*. And it now could be said ruefully that for millions of students we got about what we asked for.

The young teachers college students of the 1930's are now in their sixties. For the last two decades they have been in the higher administrative school positions, where they have presided over the present decay. Many of them resisted the "new educational philosophy" of the 1930's, but the best recommendations for advancement went to those who didn't resist it.



For 25 years we've put \$10 more in education for

Only today do we begin to see a few people inside education—a younger breed who have lived with the mess—who will pronounce the educational heresy that the schools ought to be put on their mettle to produce in terms of pupil performance.

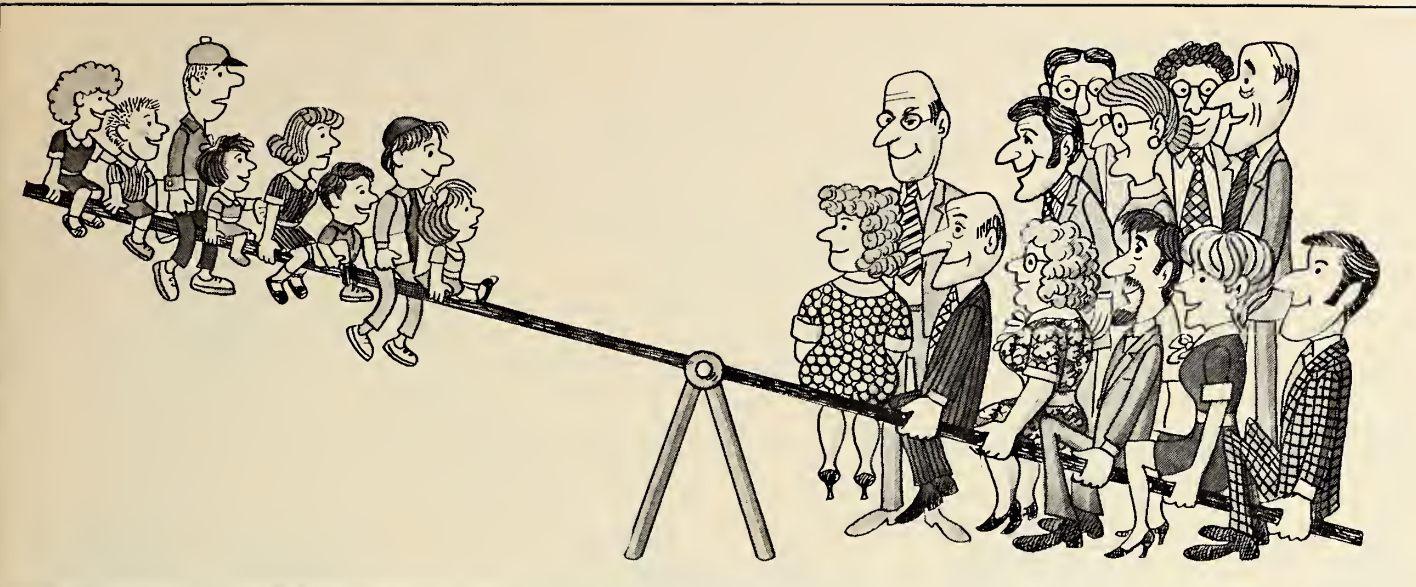
Dr. Leon Lessinger, former U.S. Assistant Commissioner of Education, recently said: "If one airplane in four crashed between takeoff and landing, people would refuse to fly. If one automobile in four went out of control and caused a fatal accident, Detroit would be closed down tomorrow. Yet our schools—which produce a more important product than airplanes or automobiles—somehow fail one youngster in four." He adds that in 1965 "one of every four eighteen-year-old males failed the mental test for induction into the services."

Lessinger is reminding us that after a half century of public commitment to remedy the situation revealed by the WWI army tests, it wasn't too much different in 1965 when our Vietnam war army applied the same yardstick. Lessinger is hated with a passion by some organized educators, whose pamphlets regularly revile him.

In and out of education, there is not and never has been any want of enthusiasm for solving the schools' problems with the things that money can buy—staffs big enough to reduce class size, larger libraries, more and better textbooks, educational specialists, remedial programs, better buildings and no end of other things that might (or might not, if measured by *results*) get us out of the dilemma. The trouble is that the things that money can buy may be needed tools, but the best tool is no good in the hands of a workman who is not primarily concerned with what his end

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES FLORA





every \$4 increase in our national wealth, while for 10 years we've added 12 instructors for every increase of 8 students.

product will be. Whatever tool works best is the best one, but only he who makes it work deserves to have it.

The public and legislators ought not to quibble too much about the details of teaching, and should be willing to provide whatever tools will get results. The public *should* demand that expenditures be justified by results.

The sad lesson we have learned is that we have been okaying the layout of billions for meager results. In the absence of any required results, the most elaborate school establishment in equip-

has been given direction, has been wrung dry.

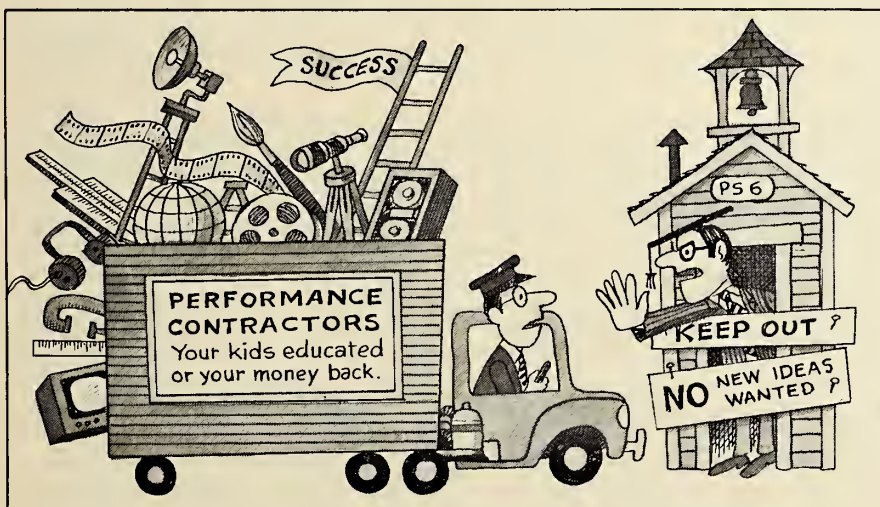
This was made plain by a government study commonly called the Coleman Report. Named for its principal author, Prof. James S. Coleman, of Johns Hopkins University, the report was prepared as part of a federally funded investigation of racial discrimination in school systems. Dr. Coleman and his associates expected to find a gross shortage of the things that educators usually ask for in schools attended by minority group students—modern school buildings, ade-

not have larger classes, do not have fewer textbooks, do not pay teachers less, and so on. More importantly, Coleman found that differences in schools as measured by these factors were *not very closely related to student achievement at all*. Different schools did and did not do a good job with or without all the goodies.

Other investigations of good educational intent have shown the same thing. The enormously expensive Head Start programs produced striking effects on children—at first. But follow-up research showed that within a couple of years Head Start kids had no better academic performance than children from the same environment who hadn't been part of Head Start. This suggests that initial enthusiasm for results was the main contributor to early success. But as soon as the kids "advanced" to the traditional system where showing results has a low priority, the Head Start gains were smothered. In short, the early start wasn't nearly as important as being in a system that placed student progress above all else.

At this point it is necessary to backtrack. If the reader is an angry parent who's paying ever more school taxes while his children are having trouble with two syllable words and his schools seem like headquarters for roving gangs, he may well be thinking that the idea of "performance accountability" is a beautiful, vengeful idea, along the lines of, "Yeah, make 'em put up or shut up."

It isn't that simple, and it was we, the people, who passed laws 50 years and more ago that required attendance without requiring education, too. Even though the schools have used all their political influence to keep it that way, we share the blame for letting them. Now there are 50 years of mischief embedded in the system as a result. Perhaps the



Organized educators bitterly resist contract teachers who guarantee results.

ment and staff may achieve little for its students.

In the past 25 years, we have added \$10 to our national educational budget for every \$4 increase in national wealth. In the last ten years, for every increase of eight students we have added 12 instructors. But we have more grief than reward to show for it in average student progress. The notion that money or anything that it can buy will *automatically* solve the problems, until its expenditure

quate textbooks, good library facilities, reasonable class size, quality teacher education and background, decent faculty pay—and the like. They had assumed that denial of these essentials would explain the rather poor academic achievement of minority and inner-city children.

To their surprise they found nothing of the like. The report shows that black schools do not spend significantly less money per pupil than white schools, do



## Can We Save Our Schools By Demanding Results?

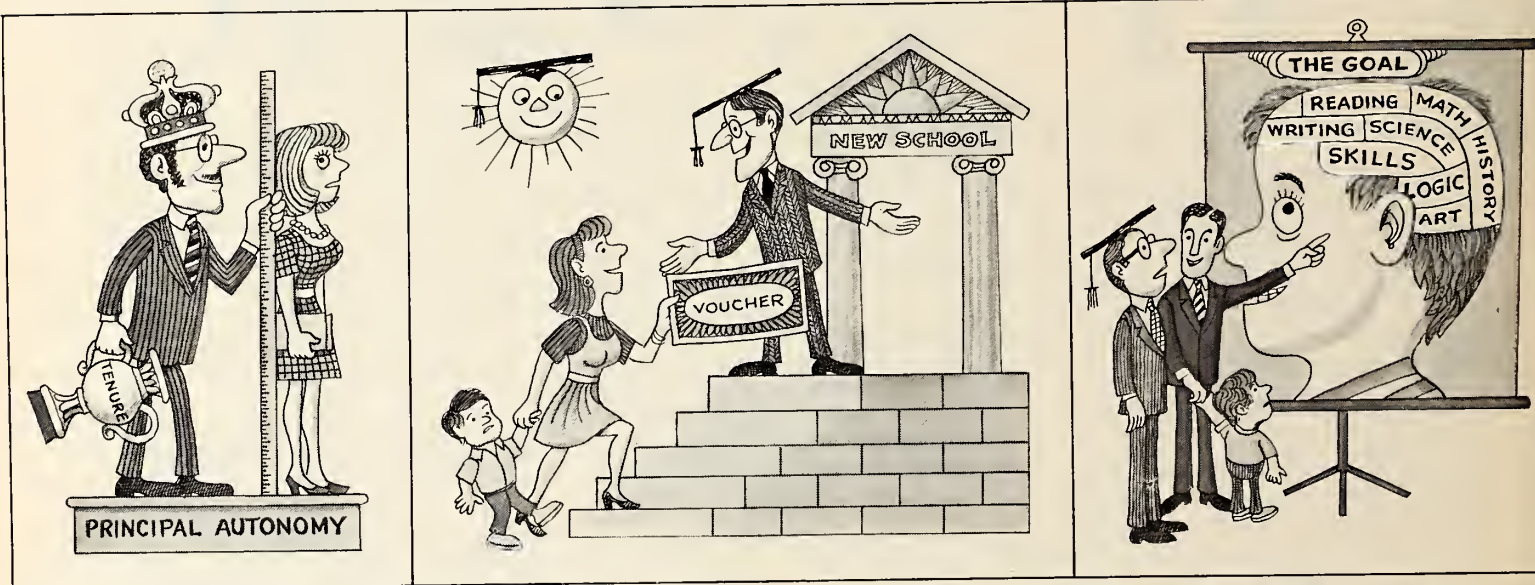
chief ingrained mischief is that the compulsory education laws made the schools custodians (baby sitters, if you will) of children first, and teachers only secondarily. In the worst of our city schools today, if we simply said "Teach better or get out," the only choice would be to get out. It is almost impossible to teach much better in them. The job of being custodian is more than they can handle until and unless a whole new groundwork is laid for using these schools for teaching. Once we decide to do it, there's a lot more work to be done by all of us.

have to support a whole new structure to implement the new fangled notion of teaching primarily for student progress.

Top educationists don't know what their realistic goals are, either. Examine a book on education and you'll find lofty goals like "educate every child to his fullest capacity" or "develop children to their fullest humanity." No one on earth could be held accountable for goals like that. They are nothing but vaguenesses. Teachers' associations are on sound ground when they reject accountability if that's what we expect them to do.

surely we can agree that schools which don't teach reading probably won't do much "humanity developing" either. In fact, one of the most basic benefits that accountability may bring is to force school boards, and behind them their public, to think hard about what we want the public schools to accomplish. Instead of lofty rhetoric, we will have to define realistic educational goals. If the movement accomplishes no more than that it will have been worthwhile.

The National School Board Association says that school accountability for student progress may be an idea whose time has come. Although the whole concept is relatively new, about 13% of the



Three current proposals: 1. Let principals run schools as they please, and judge them by results. 2. Give parents vouchers to send kids to any school they please, making schools compete for the money. 3. Require schools to meet set standards of progress.

Yet requiring results is entirely possible, and not a few school systems are now working toward it. But it will be a long, slow, painful process, to which the public—in the shape of parents, school boards, legislators and taxpayers—will have to contribute responsibly along with the schools. The whole idea of accountability for education is that the public must tell the schools what to do *first of all*—the very thing we didn't do 50 years ago. You can't ask a teacher to be responsible for goals when neither you nor she knows what they are, and for the most part, school districts have never stated their goals in meaningful terms.

Dr. Duncan Sprague, Director of Instructional Services for the California Teachers' Association, says, "You go to school district offices and ask for a statement of their educational goals and they either don't have one, or they blow the dust off some document prepared 30 years ago and never examined since." This is one reason teachers' associations have been wary of the new accountability movement—they aren't sure what the public expects them to be accountable for. When and if we tell them, we may

However, this isn't what the citizen generally expects from the schools. Ask the average parent and he'll probably say something about being able to read, write and do arithmetic; know something about the history of the United States; be able to understand employment advertisements (there are many high school graduates who can't, however much they may have been developed to their "fullest humanity"), and acquiring abilities to make a living in this complex world.

These are, of course, skills. No one would contend that skills are the whole of education. But no child is going to get a whole education *until* he has the basic skills to absorb it, and the worst feature of our present public education is failure right at the three R's level for 25% or more of students. Skills may not be the XYZ of education, but we have a right to insist that they be its ABC.

Schools can't be accountable for developing "fullest humanity." As it lacks meaning it lacks teachability and measurability. But there's no reason why *every* child can't acquire basic skills. Defining goals beyond that will require more careful study—much more. But

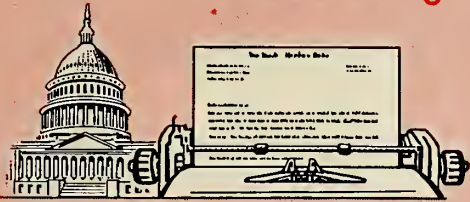
public school boards have already adopted some steps toward accountability programs, and nearly half are studying it. Over 30 states have adopted some kind of legislation intended to lead toward accountability for learning in the schools. California will, in 1972-73, implement a comprehensive program for evaluating the effectiveness of every public school teacher in the state, and the California Teachers' Association has pledged cooperation to make this effective. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently issued its "Citizens Action Program for Effective Schools." It is a blueprint for requiring student progress as a major priority goal for the years ahead. The idea of making schools show student progress is popular and there is increasing pressure for instant implementation.

Yet the very popularity of accountability may hamper its effective adoption. Because it seems so reasonable it is difficult to understand just how fundamental a change it is from traditional school administration methods. Citizens may not realize some of the problems that stand in its way. Among them will

(Continued on page 42)



**Dateline Washington....**



## **LEGALIZED MARIJUANA AHEAD? UN'S GLORY FADING. CONGRESS LOOKS AT "TAPS"**

The move to decriminalize the use of marijuana is building up strength in the nation's capitol. A bipartisan push is under way in Congress, supported by three civic groups: American Public Health Assoc., Institute for the Study of Health and Society and the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Based on the year-long studies of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, the proposed legislation would legalize possession and use of the drug--now subject to \$1,000 fine and a year jail term--but would continue to prosecute drug traffickers.

Cosponsors of the Senate legislation, Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.) and Harold E. Hughes (Iowa) support the conclusion of the commission that national policy should discourage marijuana use. "We cannot say at the present time that the drug is totally harmless from the medical point of view," the Senators say. But they feel present criminal penalties are too harsh for private use and possession of the drug.

The United Nations has steadily lost supporters in Washington over the past decade, so that a significant cut in the U.S. contribution to it is a rare common goal of both the White House and Congress.

Decreased U.S. support, to be slashed at least from 31.52% to 25%, will force the other member countries to pay a larger share or compel the UN to reduce its money activities.

The UN began with 51 countries, and high hopes for establishing a vehicle for world peace. It mushroomed to 132 members, including mini-countries, all having an equal vote in the Assembly. The influence of the United States ebbed as the so-called "third world" bloc rose--a bloc which often voted with the communist countries against American positions.

So deep is the disillusionment in Washington that some legislators want to withdraw the United States from the UN, not simply cut our contribution.

Even as Capitol Hill watchdogs scrutinize unions, corporations and sports for gangster syndicate penetration, the wiretap--a most sophisticated crime fighting weapon--is also under Congressional surveillance.

Electronic interception, sanctioned under the Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1969, has become one of the most effective and controversial crime prevention techniques. Last year, 19 states and the federal government authorized "tapping" and of these 14 states made use of the newly legal device; half by New York, one-third by New Jersey. In all, 816 applications for electronic surveillance were approved and led to 3,363 arrests, 900 convictions.

Critics of the "tap" argue the inherent danger to free speech; but Sen. Roman L. Hruska (Neb.), a strong supporter of electronic surveillance, defends the need to fight highly organized criminals with corresponding "power and means to deal effectively with their depredations."

### **PEOPLE AND QUOTES**

#### **SELF-HYPNOSIS**

"... the best way to make a nation decadent is to persuade people to talk about its decadence." Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, director, Nat'l Museum of Hist. & Tech.

#### **U.S. ECONOMIC MIGHT**

"To the rest of the world the most obvious ... fact of our times is the overwhelmingly dominant role of the U.S. economy within the world economy." Nobuhiko Ushiba, Japan's Ambassador to U.S.

#### **CONTROL OTHER GUY**

"... the American worker's personal attitude toward controls has been no different from that of the rest of us--he approves of restraint as long as it's someone else who's being restrained." Sec'y of Labor Hodgson.

#### **HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT**

"Nothing that this Administration had done has seemed to it more important for the future of the world than to make an important first step in the limitation of strategic arms." Presidential adviser Kissinger.

#### **A DOUBTING PUBLIC**

"There is abroad in our country an alarming lack of public confidence and a pervasive sense of public powerlessness." Mary Gardiner Jones, Federal Trade Commissioner.

#### **NEXT SPACE DECADE**

"... the programs we have worked out for this next decade will be just as exciting as the effort that took us to the moon and much more rewarding." Dr. James C. Fletcher, administrator, NASA.



By PEGGY ROBBINS

**F**EW AMERICAN musicians have become more famous than William Christopher Handy, the "Father of the Blues," and none has become a musical giant against greater odds.

As a struggling young musician, Handy suffered the usual handicap of being black in southern areas which later called him "one of our favorite sons," and which still refer to him as such. His musical ambitions were opposed by his father and his teachers. In his 20th year, he rode in boxcars and slept on the cobblestones of Mississippi River levees while seeking work as a musician—but the day came when he was wined and dined in New York by the cream of the city's musical society.

Venturing into small southern towns as the leader of a group of young, black performers, he was sometimes the object of abuse by white people. Just as often, he was condemned by rural blacks who claimed "show folks ain't nothin' but dirt." By early 1909, the 35-year-old Handy had made his mark not as a

# W.C. Handy and the Birth of the Blues

A brief account of the life of the man who made Memphis famous, put St. Louis in song and gave the world a new form of music.

American Record Guide, "W.C. Handy was responsible for the popularization of the blues and for giving the blues real status as a recognized music form. Starting perhaps with its influence on George Gershwin, as most discernible in his piano preludes, Handy's music left its mark on the world of both popular and serious music. The composer he is said to have influenced most is William Grant

unknown black originators who'd preceded him.

The song often referred to as Handy's masterpiece, the "St. Louis Blues," is the enduring classic of American popular music. Through the years, it has been performed in an endless variety of arrangements and on every conceivable musical instrument or combination of instruments. It long ago became the



SEIDMAN COLLECTION



While bedding down for the night on a St. Louis levee's cold cobblestones Handy heard another say, "I hate to see the evenin' sun go down." Handy later used the comment in his greatest work, "St. Louis Blues." (Sheet music shown above.)

composer but as the leader of a dance orchestra that was recognized, particularly in Memphis, as the best in the mid-South. During the next three decades, as he climbed up the ladder of his chosen profession, his fame and prosperity were mixed with abuse and reverses that troubled and saddened but never scarred him. In 1940 he wrote, "I have always felt that the miseries of my early life bore fruit in song—Yes, music cheered me on and played an accompaniment to my hard knocks."

According to James Lyons of The

Still, considered America's first black composer of serious music."

On Sept. 22, 1949, shortly before his 76th birthday, W.C. Handy was included in the Milwaukee Journal's list of 20 "grand old men," along with Cordell Hull, Arturo Toscanini, George Bernard Shaw, Lionel Barrymore and Bernard Baruch. The Father of the Blues had not only composed some of the world's greatest blues works, he'd been the first to put blues songs on paper and he'd preserved for America's musical heritage the "blues folk songs" of

standard "distinctive American composition" to be played for visiting foreign dignitaries. And it has enjoyed singular recognition abroad. Princess Marina of Greece and Prince George of England danced to its strains at the ball after their wedding. Queen Mother Elizabeth of England included it in a list of her favorite musical numbers. In the Orient, it is a familiar and popular tune.

Less familiar is the story of the man who gave the world the "St. Louis Blues." W.C. Handy was born on Nov. 16, 1873, in the country town of Florence, Ala.,





William Christopher Handy (1873-1958).

in a log cabin his grandfather. William Wise Handy, had built. This grandfather, who became a Methodist minister after emancipation, was the first Negro to own property in the area. As a young runaway slave from Maryland, he was caught and sold into Alabama. There he was accused of fomenting rebellion and shot while attempting escape. But he lived to become a respected citizen of Florence. He died the year W.C. was

born and was thereafter the subject of fascinating stories the growing boy heard.

W.C. Handy's maternal grandfather, Christopher Brewer, also grew up as a slave, but under so kind an owner he refused his freedom when offered it. When the Florence locality was wracked by guerrilla warfare near the close of the Civil War, Brewer refused to tell where his master's money was hidden

and was shot. The master was killed at the same time, but Brewer survived to enjoy a pleasant relationship with his former owner's heirs. William Christopher Handy credited the mixture of compliance and independence that he got from his two grandfathers for his ability to get along in difficult race situations and still follow his own star.

Handy's parents were among some 4 million slaves who were freed and then



## CONTINUED W.C. Handy and the Birth of the Blues

left to their own resources. His father, Charles B. Handy, "fell in line in the ministry," and both the boy's parents expected him to become a Methodist preacher. W.C. said later that all his forebears had one thing in common—they had shown neither talent nor fondness for music. Some of his kin even forbade whistling on their property. His preacher father once told him, "I'd rather see you in a harse than have you become a musician."

But young William did have a step-grandmother who claimed his big ears were an indication he had "a talent for song," and there was an 80-year-old fiddler—Whit Walker—with whom he spent many happy, secret hours. "Uncle" Whit would fiddle and stomp his feet while the Handy boy stood behind him, reached around his left shoulder and beat on the fiddle strings with a pair

even sold lye soap which he made himself, using ashes from hickory wood and bones from a nearby slaughterhouse.

He gave two-thirds of his earnings to his parents and secretly saved all he could of the other third, which amounted to about one dollar a week, to buy a guitar he'd seen in a local store. He'd been fascinated by the trumpet playing of a man who'd come from Birmingham to join the Baptist choir, and a trumpet was the instrument he really wanted. He'd even tried to make one out of a cow horn. But he realized a guitar came nearer to being within his reach. He wrote later, "Setting my mind on a musical instrument was like falling in love. All the world seemed bright and changed. . . . With a guitar I would be able to express the things I felt in sounds." From earliest childhood he'd been "collecting sounds and loving them"

Get it out of your hands! Whatever possessed you to bring a sinful thing like that into our Christian home? Take it back. You hear?"

The boy was stunned. He'd heard his father refer to stringed instruments as "devices of the devil" both at home and from the pulpit, but he'd somehow not realized his parents could think a guitar an evil thing in *his* hands. "I don't think they'll take it back," he mumbled.

"Then exchange it for a Webster's Dictionary."

Crushed, young Handy exchanged the guitar for a dictionary. But there was good result. W.C.'s father started paying for lessons for him on the old church organ. Sacred music wasn't what the youngster had in mind, but it beat no music at all. Somewhat cheered, he began leading the neighborhood kids during off hours as they played at making rhythm. They scraped a nail across the teeth of a horse's jawbone they found in



"Nature was my kindergarten," Handy once said. Here, artist depicts young Handy "collecting sounds" that helped shape the blues.

of knitting needles—snaredrum-fashion. The pair sang with their rhythm:

Sally got a meat skin laid away  
Sally got a meat skin laid away  
Sally got a meat skin laid away  
To grease her wooden leg every day.

As a boy at home in Florence, W.C. Handy was well fed from his family's gardens and livestock. But his parents could not supply him hard cash except for a nickel each week for Sunday school. He early learned to barter and once acquired a copy of Benjamin Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac" in exchange for a gallon of milk. He began earning money by picking and selling fruits from his father's orchard and nuts and wild berries from the woods. He

—the chants of field hands, the rhythm made by the hooves of galloping horses, the whistles of Tennessee River steamboats, the low of cattle, the songs of birds "in their great outdoor choir." He said later, "There was a French horn concealed in the breast of the blue jay," and that all the sounds of nature and civilization "built up within my consciousness a natural symphony. This was the primitive prelude to the mature melodies now recognized as the blues. Nature was my kindergarten."

"My heart was a leaf," he said, when he finally bought the guitar. He raced home and proudly displayed it before his parents.

"A guitar!" his father gasped. "One of the devil's playthings. Take it away!"

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JACK RUGE

the woods, sang through fine-tooth combs, drummed on old tin pans, and, best of all, imitated the sounds of the railroad trains on dime store jew's-harps.

W.C. did well in the Florence District School for Negroes, but he got no more encouragement in his musical ambition there than at home. His teacher, Prof. Y.A. Wallace, a member of Fisk University's first graduating class, agreed with the boy's father that becoming a professional musician meant selling one's soul to the devil. During the 11 years he was young Handy's instructor, Professor Wallace repeatedly assured him that "musicians were idlers, dissipated characters, whiskey drinkers, rounders, social pariahs." The teacher many times took the rod to the boy, both for "meddling with music" and for sketching





After secretly saving to buy a guitar, Handy was stunned when his outraged minister-father ordered him to take the "devil's plaything" back to the store.



His teacher whipped him when W.C. skipped school to play in a band.

"creatures" when he was supposed to be drawing maps.

This same teacher, however, made a hobby of vocal music and devoted the first half-hour of each school day to singing instruction, without instruments. That was the part of W.C. Handy's school life that he most enjoyed, and from it he learned the rudiments of music. Writing when he was 67, he said in his autobiography, "I began in the soprano singing section, progressed to the alto, and then shuttled back and forth between the tenor and bass as my voice cut up. . . . There was no piano or organ in our school. . . . We were required to hold our books in our left hand and beat time with our right. Professor Wallace sounded his *A* pitch pipe or tuning fork, and we understood the tone to be *la*. . . . We learned to sing in all keys, measures and movements. We learned all the songs in [six volumes of] 'Gospel Hymns' . . . all without instrumental accompaniment."

When Handy was 15, a sad-eyed violin player named Jim Turner arrived in Florence from Memphis, seeking a change of scene after a Memphis girl had allegedly broken his heart. Turner organized an orchestra in the little town and taught the dancing steps then in favor on Beale Street in Memphis—the polka, the schottische, the rye waltz, the mazurka, the york, the minuet and the two-step. Handy, unbeknownst to his parents, learned them all. By this time he had secretly bought an old rotary-valve cornet for \$1.75, payable in small installments, and was mastering it in record time. He was soon a member of Turner's band. When Turner played at an auction at Russellville, Ala., Handy skipped school and went along. He earned eight dollars for the day's work,

enjoyed every minute of it, and had no regrets even when his unforgiving father met him at the door and, the next day, Professor Wallace applied the hickory mightily.

After that, W.C. Handy no longer tried to hide his interest in "professional music." He attended dances, sang with a quartet and joined a local minstrel show, even daring for this last to "secretly borrow" his father's Prince Albert coat. When the show made a road trip, he again skipped school in order to go. The troupe got stranded after a few appearances in northern Alabama and

PEGGY ROBBINS



Nineteen-year-old W.C. Handy, in Hampton Cornet Band, Evansville, Ind.

Tennessee and walked the railroad tracks part of the way home, "stopping periodically to sing or play for buttermilk and biscuits." But W.C. Handy was not disheartened. The other boys said he

never sang better than when stranded along the tracks.

He returned to the District School at Florence and graduated with the idea that he'd go to a college where he could get advanced musical instruction. He taught school for a few months in a community near Florence to acquire a few dollars and then, in 1892, rode the train to Birmingham. He was offered a teaching position there at \$25 a month, but turned it down for a job at the pipe works in Bessemer which paid \$1.85 a day. In Bessemer, he organized and instructed his first brass band, and he soon was the most popular young man in the Negro community. At the request of the town's small string orchestra, he became its leader and teacher. He'd even started saving some money toward college expenses. But the panic during President Grover Cleveland's second administration set in, and the mills, mines and iron works around Bessemer shut down.

Handy went back to Birmingham and lived off his savings while seeking work. Wandering aimlessly one evening in 1892, he chanced to hear some boys singing in a saloon. He promptly joined them and was soon teaching them some arrangements he'd used with the quartet back in Florence. They organized the "Lauzetta Quartet" and sang wherever anyone would listen for such reward as they could get, usually featuring a number entitled "Gwine Chop 'Em in the Head with a Golden Ax."

After a few days of this, they happened upon announcements of the World's Columbian Exposition and decided to take their harmonizing to Chicago. Handy at the time had 20¢ to his name and the others didn't have a dime. They met in the L. & N. Railroad freight yards



and cheerfully boarded a tank ear, telling each other they'd sing their way to the World's Fair. After barely escaping arrest several times and almost being hijacked for work in a gravel pit in one small town, they finally reached Chicago, exhausted and hungry. Alas, the fair was postponed for a year and they were forced to disband and concentrate on individual survival. Handy sang and played his cornet in saloons for the nickels and dimes tossed his way.

He moved on to East St. Louis and found a job with Elliot Frog and Switch Works, only to be cheated out of two weeks' wages by a contractor. "Worse still," he recorded later, "a plague of lice overtook me. A swiper [one who rubs down horses] from the race tracks saw me standing on Eads Bridge throwing my infested shirt and underclothes into the muddy river and thought that I was contemplating suicide. He offered to let me sleep on the hay in a horse's stall at the St. Louis race track. I accepted with thanks, and helped him rub down his horses."

Later, he slept in vacant lots and on the Mississippi River levee, along with others similarly hit by the depression. Occasionally, he slept in a chair in Victor's Poolroom, but that was hazardous because policemen were always popping in to catch vagrants. W.C. Handy never forgot the "test for vagrancy" being used by St. Louis policemen at that time. If they found a man in a poolroom chair who had neither an eye open nor a foot swinging, they picked him up as a bum, he said. The poolroom boys said Handy was the only fellow they'd ever seen who could continue with the "foot-working" while fast asleep.

Handy hopped his way to Evansville, Ind., and worked as a bricklayer for awhile. There he joined the Hampton Cornet Band. People began praising his playing, and Handy swiftly switched from hobo-bricklayer to professional musician, soon accepting out-of-town engagements. On a job in Henderson, Ky., where he got eight dollars for playing at a barbecue, he decided he liked Henderson so much he'd stay around for awhile. That first day there he met Elizabeth V. Price, whom he married nearly three years later, in July 1898.

W.C. Handy was happily busy with music in Henderson. He joined a band and was featured as cornet soloist. He enjoyed listening to the roustabouts on the levee singing their work songs. And he was entranced with the vocalism of Henderson's several-hundred-member German singing society. In order to study the methods of the group's director, Professor Bach, he worked as a janitor in the society's Liederkrantz Hall.

Thus, he said later, he "obtained a post-graduate course in vocal music—and got paid for it."

On Aug. 4, 1896, the mail brought Handy an offer to join W.A. Mahara's Minstrels, then in Chicago, as a cornet player. The job paid six dollars weekly, plus "cakes"—but it was a chance to travel with the top Negro musicians of the day. Two days later he was in Chicago rehearsing with the Minstrels. He quickly earned several pay raises from the three Irish brothers who owned the show. He trained a quartet; arranged

town, Handy related in his 1941 autobiography, he feared he might be lynched. "While playing a cornet solo in the public square during the noon concert, I suddenly turned around to discover a rifle pointed at my eye. I ignored the threat, playing as if nothing was happening. A few moments later, the drums rumbling as we began the march back to the theatre, a gang of cowboys appeared and began roping our walking gents with their lassos. A swarm of rowdy boys joined in the fun and threw rocks down the bell of the big brass horn. Then the kids turned on the drums. They pelted our drums so vigorously the



When down on his luck, Handy played his cornet in saloons for nickels and dimes.

orchestrations for the featured singers; was the band's cornet soloist, part-time director, and owner of a new gold-plated trumpet. A tall, stately man, Handy appeared in a well-fitted maroon uniform with gold epaulettes and shining buttons.

He toured with Mahara's Minstrels from 1896 to mid-1900 and again from mid-1902 to the spring of 1904. After his marriage in 1898, his wife occasionally left Henderson to travel with him part of the time. She wanted W.C. to save his money and go into the grocery business in Kentucky, but Handy wasn't having any of that.

In smaller towns, the traveling Negro performers were sometimes met by derision and cruelty. One day in a Texas

noise sounded like a rat-a-tat-tat of a machine gun. I was furious and stoutly refused to play a note during the parade. We marched faster than usual, but we kept our ranks. Later, Mahara complimented me warmly for keeping the parade in formation and refusing to play."

There was one Texas town in which the Minstrels never played but through which they passed. "When it became known to the home town mob that our show was routed their way, they would sit up all night waiting for the train to pass. Their conception of wild, he-man fun was to riddle our ear with bullets as it sped through their town. Our strategy was to extinguish the lights and lie



quietly on the floor, until out of town."

The management of the Minstrels consisted of W.A., Jack and Frank Mahara, "the fightingest triumvirate of Irishmen who ever hoodwinked the railroad company." The show's roster showed 60 men, "but no train conductor ever found more than 40 when he collected fares." There were secret compartments under the floors of the Pullman car in which the company traveled. These secret holds, which always contained a small arsenal, were called "bear-wallows" or "get-aways." Once they contained W.C. Handy.

One day in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Handy disarmed and fought a white ticket agent who was aiming a coupling pin at the head of one of the players. After the fight, he hid in the Pullman's "get-away" while one of the Mahara brothers led the sheriff and his posse in a search of the car to "prove" that the black cornetist they sought had been run off and told never to come near the Minstrels again.

Handy left the Minstrels for two seasons in order to teach vocal and band music at the Agricultural and Mechanical College in Huntsville, Ala. While there he became increasingly irritated by the general tendency to consider any song of foreign origin as "classical" and superior to American music. In a chapel program he included a rousing ragtime number, "My Ragtime Baby," written by a Detroit Negro named Fred Stone. But he listed it as "Greetings to Toussaint L'Ouverture." It was a great success, not only with the students, but with the faculty—until Handy told them that it was American music masquerading under a French name. After that he did not find the atmosphere at A. & M. very pleasant, and he was glad to get back with the Minstrels.

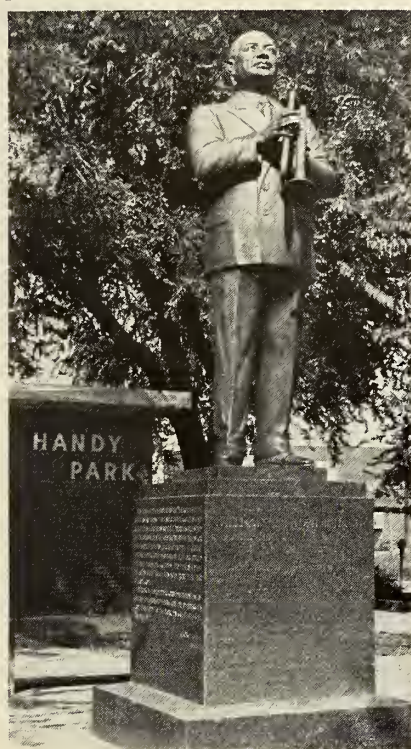
W.C. Handy later credited his travels with Mahara's Minstrels, "from Cuba to California, from Canada to Mexico," with making him a professional musician and bandmaster, and with dispelling all doubt that the musician's life was the life for him. One of his most satisfying performances during his years with the Minstrels was in his home town of Florence. His father, "in a monstrous violation of principle," attended, and said afterward, "Sonny . . . I enjoyed it. I am proud of you and I forgive you for becoming a musician."

During his last year with the Minstrels, while playing in a Michigan town, Handy was offered the job of directing the local municipal band, composed of white musicians. Before he'd had time to accept, he received by letter an offer to direct the black Knights of Pythias band in Clarksdale, Miss., about 75 miles south of Memphis. The Michigan position paid more and was more prestigious—yet Handy accepted the Clarksdale job

and moved his wife and two little daughters, Lucile and Katherine, there. He was never quite sure *why* he chose Clarksdale, but he was positive in later life that "it was the best thing that could ever have happened to me" because "it led inevitably to the blues."

The Clarksdale band became a popular, nine-man orchestra under Handy, and played for affairs of every conceivable description up and down the Delta. While Handy directed his musicians, he gathered into his "mind's back room" more of the "natural folk sounds and melodies" for which he'd always had a great fondness. Southern Negroes sang spontaneously about everything—steamboats, trains, race horses, stubborn mules, flooding waters, tight-fisted bankers, cruel bosses, cotton, boll weevils, sun-

SEIDMAN COLLECTION



Statue of Handy stands in Handy Park on Memphis' Beale St.

shine and moonlight, bad women and good. But these songs had not been put on paper and each varied with different singers.

One night, Handy was asleep on a bench in the railroad station at Tutwiler, Miss., waiting for a train that was several hours late. He was awakened by "the weirdest guitar plunking" and "the haunting over-and-over singing of one line: 'Goin' where the Southern cross the Dog.'" He asked the singer, a ragged Negro, what the words meant. The fellow replied that he was going to Moorhead, Miss. There, four times a day, north-south Southern trains crossed the east-west route of the Yazoo Delta Railroad, which Negroes had nicknamed "The Yellow Dog." He was simply passing the

time as he waited by singing about where he was going. It was W.C. Handy's recognition of the artistic and commercial value of so-called "low music folk forms" such as this that gradually turned Handy the musician into Handy the composer. Some ten years after that night in Tutwiler, his "Yellow Dog Blues" was a hit.

Handy was well-liked in the Clarksdale area. The wealthy merchants and planters in whose homes he frequently played and who by subscription paid most of the bill for his orchestra's uniforms and instruments, never knew he engaged in a thriving bootleg-type business supplying local black people with Northern newspapers and magazines—the Chicago Defender, the Indianapolis Freeman and the Voice of the Negro.

But Handy had some unpleasant experiences in other Delta areas. His orchestra was frequently ordered to extend its playing time without extra pay. "Jim Crow traveling and eating situations and the like" were always bad. Handy said that his musicians, in both North and South, often traveled through small towns with prominent signs reading, "Nigger, don't let the sun go down on you here."

In one Mississippi town, deep in the Delta, Handy and his band were hired to furnish music for a political rally for a gubernatorial candidate. They opened up with "Dixie," to the delight of the crowd. A few minutes later, they sat quietly while the candidate made his speech, which included, "I pledge you my sacred word of honor that if you elect me your governor, I shall not spend one dollar for nigger education." The rally ended with a second rendition of "Dixie" by the Negro musicians. Handy later said that he was at least glad to report that that candidate was not elected.

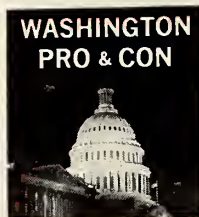
Handy was a cheerful, reasonable man, but, nonetheless, proud and independent. He sometimes traveled armed with a pistol, though he managed not to use it.

While still living in Clarksdale and working with the band there, he was asked to instruct Thornton's Knights of Pythias 20-man band in Memphis. He accepted, though he knew the commuting from Clarksdale would put a heavy load on him. Memphis was the "musical hub of the Delta" and employment there represented another step up the ladder.

W.C. Handy had first heard about Beale Street in Memphis, "where life was a song from dawn to dawn," from Jim Turner in Florence. As a youth, he had visited Memphis with Turner and marveled at the establishment on Beale Street called "Pee Wee's."

Pee Wee arrived in Memphis in the 1880's, with one dime in his pocket, a ragged, dark, Italian immigrant boy, grimy from riding the rods all the way  
(Continued on page 46)





Opposing Views by Congressmen on The Question . . .

# SHOULD CONGRESS

**Y**ES. Congress should adopt a Value-Added Tax if 1) its revenues are used to reduce property taxes and 2) it is coupled with income tax credits to make it fall least heavily on low-income citizens.

The VAT is a form of sales tax, which, instead of being collected in full at the point of a product's final sale, is collected at each stage in the production in proportion to the value added at that stage.

I see the VAT as a promising alternative to property taxes for generating revenues for public education. The property tax is probably our most regressive tax, falling hardest on older persons, farmers and others who are least able to pay. Retired people with fixed incomes often find their property taxes so high they are forced to give up homes they paid for many years ago.

About half of the public education funds in the country now come from local government and almost all these come from property taxes. Recent court decisions have ruled it unconstitutional for the quality of education to be determined by the wealth of the district. Additional funding necessary to provide equal educational opportunity will create strong upward pressure on property taxes, a resource already pressed to the breaking point. The VAT offers a means of reducing rather than increasing dependence on property tax.

A Value-Added Tax can and should be made to rest more heavily on those most able to pay, through a system of income tax credits. Low-income individuals and families would be allowed a credit for all Value-Added Tax paid. The credit would decrease as income rises.

The VAT is more equitable than the present progressive income tax. Many sources of income for the wealthy, such as municipal bonds, capital gains and dividends are taxed at a lower rate than a worker's



Rep. Orval Hansen  
(R-Idaho)  
2nd District

wages. The VAT would tax all spending by consumers equally, regardless of the income source.

The VAT need not be hidden from the consumer. It should be clearly shown, as is the tax on an airline ticket, gasoline or a new car.

The VAT would yield high revenues from a low tax rate. It is relatively easy to administer and collect. In Europe, people simply fill out post cards four times a year. It is to some extent self-policing because manufacturers and merchants must pay a tax as well as collect it in order to pay the amount they owe. It is neutral in its effect on business, will not distort or retard economic activity and could strengthen the U.S. international trade position.

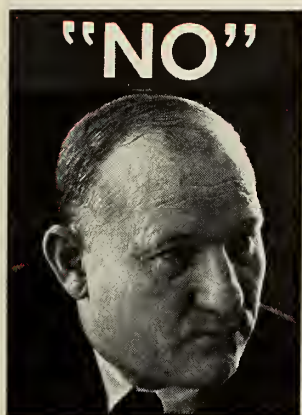
The Value-Added Tax offers one of the most promising alternatives yet suggested to generate substantial new revenues as a substitute for property taxes in financing public education.

*Orval Hansen*

**If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this**



# ADOPT A VALUE-ADDED TAX?



Sen. James B. Pearson  
(R-Kan.)

**T**HE AMERICAN people cannot afford the imposition of the so-called Value-Added Tax. This tax, really a national sales tax, would be inflationary and regressive. It would create as many burdens as it would relieve.

In the midst of a national battle against inflation, we should not impose a tax which would increase the cost of every item consumed in this nation.

This tax would raise the cost of food, medicine, clothing and other essential items. We cannot afford it.

A national sales tax is a regressive tax. Its burden falls more heavily on the poor and middle income than on the rich. This tax would run counter to efforts to base our national tax structure on the principle that one should pay taxes according to his ability to pay.

Proponents of a national sales tax claim that it would enable American exporters to increase sales. A number of tax and trade experts disagree. Whatever the technical merits of the argument, I do not believe that American consumers should be forced to subsidize American exporters through a national sales tax. We have been told that devaluation of the dollar would correct our balance of payments problem. If that is true, few international trade advantages will accrue from broader tax rebates of national sales taxes.

Proponents of the national sales tax claim that it would relieve the heavy and unfair burden of the property tax. While I certainly agree that property

taxes must be lowered, imposition of a national sales tax would only add to the total tax burden of each American.

So far as I know, no responsible official has said that a national sales tax would eliminate property taxes. If enacted, Americans would have to pay the residual portion of the property tax as well as a burdensome national sales tax. Americans would then be paying two regressive and burdensome taxes instead of one.

Proponents of a national sales tax claim, quietly, that such a tax is desirable because it is a hidden tax. Consumers pay the tax as they make each purchase. I do not believe that our government should hide any tax from the American people. Every American has a fundamental right to know how much he pays to the government.

Furthermore, I do not believe that we could hide this tax from consumers. We certainly could not hide it from the poor and the elderly who must try to live on Social Security and small pensions.

I conclude, therefore, that we should not adopt a national sales tax. It would only add another equally undesirable or worse tax to the already unfair property tax.

*James B. Pearson*



I have read in The American Legion Magazine for August the arguments in PRO & CON: Should Congress Adopt A Value-Added Tax?

IN MY OPINION THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS:

YES ☐ NO ☐

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

You can address any Representative c/o U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; any Senator c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

issue, fill out the "ballot" and mail it to him. ➡



# A Look at the APPALACHIAN TRAIL



Hikers on Appalachian Trail at Lake of the Clouds, near summit of Mt. Washington, N.H., New England's highest peak. Hostel (or "hut") i





Top photo, start of the trail on Mt. Katahdin, Me., and trail's end at Springer Mt., Ga. (bottom photo). Between points, trail winds some 2,000 miles. Its first mile was dedicated in 1922, in New York.

AL THOMPSON

Text by

**LEAVITT A. KNIGHT, JR.**

**T**HANKS TO some overly sentimental myth, a factual portrait of the great Appalachian Trail must first debunk a lot that is loosely said about it. Here is a blazed nature trail for hikers in the populous East whose first mile was dedicated in 1922. With all its windings, it runs some 2,000 miles from Mt. Katahdin's Baxter State Park in Maine to north Georgia's Springer Mountain in the Chattahoochee National Forest, not far from Clayton, Ga.

It's a living wonder that any such blazed trail could exist among the millions of people and webs of highways to be found in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania,

ZELLIG G. EARNEST



A hiker in north Georgia at Walasi Center (inn, etc.), operated by the state.

Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia.

And yet it does exist, within easy auto range of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Roanoke, Knoxville, Chattanooga and Atlanta—and within one day's drive of half the people of the United States and Canada.

But it is not, as some sentimentalists say, a 2,000-mile "wilderness trail," battling for survival against encroachments of the civilization in the valleys below its ridges. The greatest encroachment of man on its wilderness is the trail itself. It preempts from the wilderness a route that was left alone by Indians and settlers alike, who vastly preferred the valleys and the rivers for travel and settlement.

The trail is hardly a "wilderness" trail except in some of its southern reaches.





CONTINUED

## A Look at the Appalachian Trail

where it travels the high wilds of Great Smoky National Park and the Nantahala and Chattahoochee National Forests.

For most of its length it is something better and worse than a "wilderness trail." It depends for its existence on the technological civilization that some of

rants. Were not most of the trail easily accessible by automobile approach, far fewer hikers would set foot on it. In some sections, a new business has grown up to assure that you'll have a car waiting for you at the end of any trail stretch you choose to hike. Dan Boone never had it so good.

As a continuous trail from Maine to Georgia, it was made possible by highway bridges and dams over hundreds of smaller streams as well as such major

was near that bridge that the first mile laid out expressly to be part of the Appalachian Trail was dedicated back in 1922.

Many miles of the trail run along paved highways and wood roads, across farms and other private property, even skirting homes and yards—especially from New Hampshire to northern Virginia. At several major river crossings it winds through the streets of towns. In Pennsylvania, for instance, it does so at its Delaware River crossing and again in the streets of Duncannon, where the trail swings west of Harrisburg and crosses the Susquehanna on Clark's Ferry Bridge. For 13 miles in Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley, a few miles south of Duncannon, it descends to follow paved roads and wind through farmland, crossing numerous main highways, including the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Ah, wilderness. There are similar stretches in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.

Through much of Pennsylvania, Maryland, a short stretch in West Virginia and in northern Virginia the trail is

DICK SMITH



A helicopter and (right) hostel employees deliver supplies to be sold to hikers at "huts" high in New Hampshire's Presidential Range. This is wilderness-deluxe.

its gushier champions decry, while the rabbits and deer along its path would probably say that the trail itself abolishes the wilderness—what with all those people tramping about; cutting away the brush and trees; dropping litter; erecting signs, shelters and hostels; vandalizing the same; painting blazes on the trees and rocks; and in some sections having comforts hauled up by foot or helicopter by local people. This latter makes part of the trail—especially in New England—for all the world like a hiker's version of an auto road with motels and restau-

riters as the Connecticut, the Housatonic, the Hudson, the Delaware, the Lehigh, the Schuylkill, the Susquehanna, the Potomac, the Wautauga and the French Broad.

Many sections of the trail existed as local trails much earlier. More than 100 miles of the older Long Trail in Vermont's Green Mountains became instant Appalachian Trail—after the construction of the Bear Mountain Bridge 40 miles north of New York City made hiking across the Hudson feasible for the route of the present 2,000-mile trail. It

LESTER HOLMES



Trail users annually leave tons of litter to be cleaned up by volunteer members of trail clubs. Vandals wreck some shelters.





West of Harrisburg, Pa., the trail's route south descends to cross the Susquehanna on the Clark's Ferry Bridge at Duncannon (left), then winds through the streets of Duncannon (below) before climbing Cove Mountain to the south. After a few miles it descends again to cross the Cumberland Valley.

MORTON TADDER



something more interesting than a wilderness trail. It is a historic trail. In north-eastern Pennsylvania it passes through deserted mine country and along unused railway spurs. Farther south, the ridges it follows conceal the overgrown remains of old iron forges and their charcoal ovens—some dating back to pre-Revolutionary days. Colonial American iron works were a sometimes bootleg business, forbidden by the British. This led to “moonshining” in iron back in the hills. Many of the iron works on and near southern Pennsylvania’s and western Maryland’s South Mountain still operated in the Civil War. One, owned by abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens, was destroyed by Lee’s army shortly before the nearby

battle of Gettysburg. Its remains are right on the trail. Other historic mining and forging relics can be found on or near the trail from Vermont to Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. The trail passes near the Antietam battlefield in Maryland and crosses the Potomac at Harpers Ferry, W.Va., site of John Brown’s raid.

Another irony of getting too sentimental about the “wilderness” is that some of the finest views from the trail depend on somebody cutting away the trees and brush. Aside from an occasional natural rocky “lookout,” some of the best views are to be seen from the clear paths hacked away for power lines. Except for the works of the axe, grazing and road-builders, the higher trail is forested

everywhere except above the timberline in New Hampshire and Maine. The Great Smokies are higher, but their southern climate lets trees grow to the summits.

But nobody really wants to walk in genuine wilderness. Wilderness is brush in the face, swamp, bog, brier, precipice, gully and unfordable stream, where a man can get lost in 15 minutes and there’s no shelter from rain, snow and wind. What we need today are more places to walk a little more civilly without getting run over—preferably amidst trees and wildlife and away from noise and foul smells.

That’s what most of the Appalachian Trail is, a not very wild nature trail every-





Stone cairns mark route above New Hampshire timberline, where there are no trees for the trail's white-painted blaze mark.

CONTINUED

MORTON TADDER

## A Look at the Appalachian Trail

where but in the Smokies. It is maintained along nearly all of its route by volunteer local trail clubs and federal and state agencies which have hacked away the wilderness. They hack it away again every spring so that man can have a sweet place to walk, if he's willing. They've erected shelters along the way and built numerous side trails. The Green Mountain Club in Vermont is so perturbed by the growing crowds of people on the trail that it is busy throwing up side trails for the express purpose of thinning out the human traffic on the main thoroughfare.

The best part of the trail in Massachusetts is on massive Mt. Greylock, which is webbed with side trails that are thronged with walkers all summer.

With a million or more people now using parts of the trail every year, the development of a system of side trails (some of them swinging far to the west)



History along the trail. Above, blacksmith shop (est. 1830; now a museum) in Pennsylvania is all that remains intact of ironworks (ruins of furnace are nearby) owned by abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens. Works were destroyed by Lee's army in 1863.





From the trail: Overlooking Zealand Notch in New Hampshire.



Pine Grove furnace stack, part of ironworks where firearms were made for the Revolution, stands in state forest (Pa.) through which the trail winds. These works were founded around 1762 and were closed down soon after 1893.

is now emphasized in all 14 states through which the Appalachian Trail passes, though a surprising number of side trails already exist. And, last February, a National Trails Council was formed in Washington to promote trails of all sorts all over the country—for bicyclists, horses, snowmobiles, etc., as well as hikers—and even underwater trails for skin divers.

The local Appalachian trail clubs have obtained rights of way through private property. Some 817 miles of the trail are on private property, and it's often difficult for the clubs to keep the right of way open. Trail users occasionally offend the owners, forgetting that they are guests. Some of the clubs annually clean up tons of litter left on the trail by its users—the same kind of litter one finds on highways—beer bottles, tin cans, etc.

There are places to burn burnable refuse, but it's a motto of the trail clubs with respect to cans, bottles, etc., that "if you can carry it in you can carry it out." By many, the motto is honored in

ZELLIG G. EARNEST



Hikers on trail in Nantahala National Forest (N.C.). Printed signs reinforce blazes in many of the public lands used by trail.

the breach. Some sections of the trail have had to be rerouted because the land-owners got fed up.

The clubs have a federation—The Appalachian Trail Conference—headquartered at 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, which provides an information packet for 25¢. Between the clubs and the federation, guidebooks for every section of the trail, replete with maps and describing every important twist, turn, sight, view and landmark are published and sold in regularly revised editions. The guidebooks often plead with trail users not to offend the land-owners on private property and to *keep on the trail* when crossing it. A hasty note added to the current Pennsylvania guidebook comments that the Clark

(Continued)





A footbridge made especially for hikers on the Appalachian Trail gets them across Interstate Route 70 near Hagerstown, Maryland.

CONTINUED

## A Look at the Appalachian Trail

Valley shelter has been "completely destroyed by vandals."

The Conference puts out two fundamental books about use of the trail in general, in addition to the guidebooks. They are its Publication #5 and Publication #15.

In 1968, a new law added a National Trails System to our National Parks System, ringing the Department of the Interior in on the creation and management of foot trails all over the country.

Last October, the National Park Service brought out an 85-map book of the whole Appalachian Trail, which is now designated a National Scenic Trail. Published as an addendum to the Federal Register, and titled "The Appalachian Trail," it sells for \$3, via Sup't of Documents, U.S. Gov't Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. It's the best single map book of the whole Appalachian Trail system and describes its mile-by-mile course in words, too—though not in the detail of the ten guidebooks put out by the member clubs of the Conference; and it's inadequate as a step-by-step guide.

For all practical purposes, the whole

2,000 miles isn't what counts. Only a few people ever walk its whole length. Most of the hiking done on it is done by people traveling short distances, which are more than enough for anyone who doesn't get in shape first. The occasional zealot who walks the whole length wisely starts at the south end and walks north, so that he can try to chase the spring north and be on the way while winter still has the northern end in its embrace. According to Ann and Myron Sutton, who put out one of the several books about the trail ("Wilderness at the Doorstep, The Appalachian Trail," Lippincott, 1967, \$7.95) the first person to hike the whole trail in one summer was Earl

ZELLIG G. EARNEST



Spring hikers going up Mt. Kephart in Great Smokies. Only in the Smokies does the trail approach "genuine wilderness."

ROLAND GIDUZ



Beginning a hike into the Great Smokies, group takes one of the many access roads that lead onto the trail along its way. Most of the hiking done on the trail is done by people traveling short distances. Only a few people walk its whole length.





Old Stone House Road (above), part of the trail in Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley.

Shaffer, who spent 123 nights on the trail and got to the top of Mt. Katahdin on August 5, 1948, after departing Georgia early in April. That was 11 years after the entire trail was open for hiking in 1937. Another made it from *north to south* in 99 days of grueling hiking, but did "not recommend it." Two college students made it south-north in 94 days in 1963. A 67-year-old woman, Emma Gatewood, hiked the length in 1955 in 146 days, and a Missourian, Elmer Onstott, hiked it in his 70th year—time not announced by the Suttons. One man hiked the length in 20 years, a far more rewarding pursuit than dashing through.

The average person who's not in train-

ing would find that—either uphill or down—a mile or two or three makes a rewarding walk—and enough of one unless he starts taking hiking seriously. Most of the million or so annual trail-users walk from one to 50 miles or so.

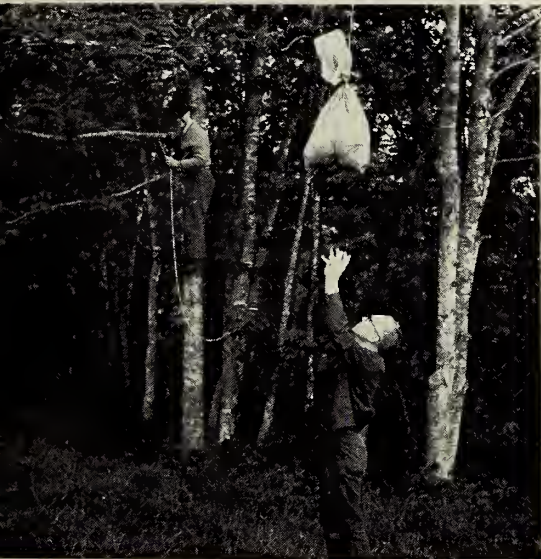
There's just one section of the trail that you can't drive to and start hiking on whenever you please. That is its wildest section along the spine of the Smokies that splits the Tennessee-North Carolina border. This is a national park.

ZELLIG G. EARNEST



Highest point on the trail (and second highest in all the east) is the wooded 6,643 foot summit of Clingmans Dome on the Tennessee-North Carolina border.

ZELLIG G. EARNEST



Roughing it in the Smokies, a seasoned hiker knows that putting his food in a tree is the one way to keep bears away.



CONTINUED

## A Look at the Appalachian Trail

and to camp in it you must first get a permit from the Superintendent in Gatlinburg, Tenn., or the Assistant Chief Ranger in Cherokee, N.C.

The Smokies are beautiful, but wild and rugged country. Hiking any great distance in them is not for novices, and it is not just a downhill walk to the nearest valley for help if you get in trouble, as it is along most of the trail. Even so, well over 100,000 people a year hike in the Smokies.

The Appalachians are a unique mountain range. In spite of clusters of high peaks in North Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont and New Hampshire, the guts of the system is a series of parallel ridges of fairly even height, some of them hundreds of miles long.

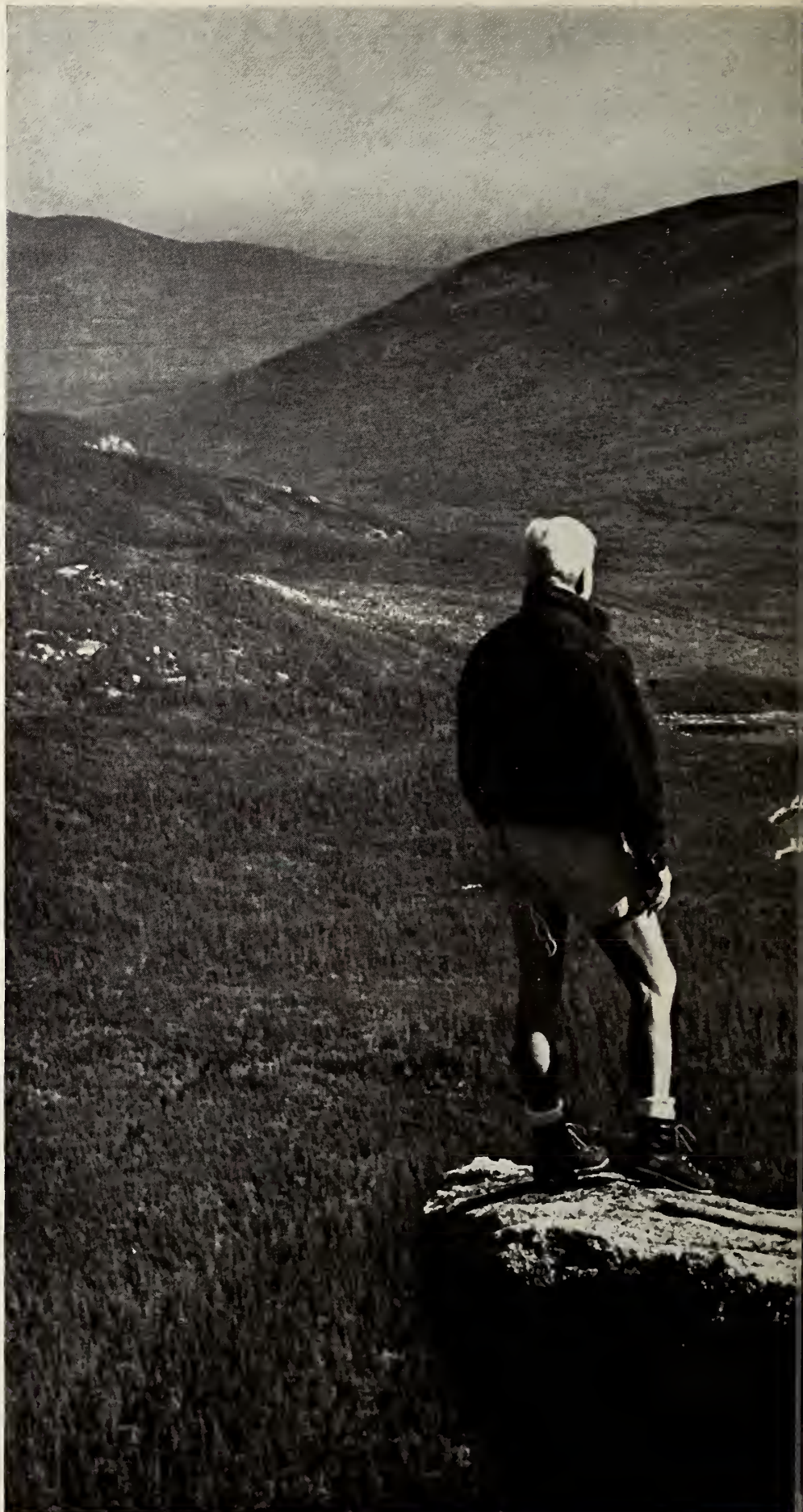
The Blue Ridge is identifiable as a single mountain for about 500 miles from Georgia to northern Virginia. North of the Potomac it continues under the name South Mountain well into Pennsylvania. It could be argued that Blue Mountain further north in Pennsylvania and the Kittatinny ridge in New Jersey are essentially the Blue Ridge, too, carrying it to the Hudson at Bear Mountain, N.Y. From there it feeds onto the Berkshires in western Connecticut and Massachusetts, the Green Mountains in Vermont and the White Mountains in New Hampshire. The range dies down to hills in Maine, then rises to a northern climax at Mt. Katahdin, whose 5,268 foot summit—though well inland—is said by down-easters to be where the sun first rises on the United States.

The Appalachians continue into Canada, most notably as the Laurentians, until they disappear in the Atlantic.

The Blue Ridge and its extensions under other names are the eastern front of the Appalachians much of the way. To the west of them, especially in Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and Virginia, ridge after ridge parallels them. From the Hudson to the Potomac (as well as the St. Lawrence) the main rivers do not follow the valleys between, but cut straight across the ridges. This peculiarity was made possible, say geologists, because the rivers were there first and the ridges rose so slowly that the rivers were able to keep wearing away their original beds. This left man the lowland for travel and settlement north and south in the valleys between the ridges and east-west along the rivers and through their numerous "gaps." The heights were thus unneeded by man for any purpose, unwanted and preserved until state and national forests came into being, and finally the trail came along to stake man's first general claim to use their whole length.

THE END

DICK SMITH



"It's 2,000 miles on foot thataway. Follow the vertical white paint marks." Such is the





prospect looking south from Maine's Baxter State Park on the slopes of Mt. Katahdin.



## LIFE IN THE OUTDOORS

# Beware—Camp Thieves!

**U**NFORTUNATELY, statistics show that outdoorsmen are not immune to the current upsurge in crime. Muggings and assaults are relatively few at campsites, occurring mostly in urban areas where dope addicts must have quick cash to support their habit. But burglars, both professional and amateur, have been quick to realize that a group of outdoorsmen, or a vacationing family on a camping trip, can be very easy pickings. The preferred loot is portable radios and TVs, binoculars, guns, fishing tackle, outboard motors, knives, etc. No weapons, force or exceptional skill in breaking and entering are necessary. And when the burglar is caught, the penalty usually is a light one such as a fine.

If a thief can break into your house, apartment or car with ease, how much easier can he enter your trailer, motor home or pickup camper when you've left it unguarded! A cloth tent or tent trailer provides no security whatsoever. Your unprotected boat and its outboard are simple to steal. The fact that you're in a crowded camping area in broad daylight is little security because your neighbors are complete strangers and can't distinguish between you and a burglar robbing your camp. In fact, one of them might be studying your daily routine with larceny in mind. Always be suspicious of a fellow camper who is alone and is too friendly and takes too much interest in your equipment, or tries to sell you something at a discount; he may be just casing your outfit getting ready for a take.

Actually, your safest campsite is a tent in the backwoods where your chance of meeting a thief is remote. But even here, wardens advise you never to leave valuables or equipment in the open where they can tempt an accidental visitor when you're

away. An extra gun or rod can be covered by your sleeping bag or blanket, as can flashlights, your ax, portable radio, etc. If your car is nearby, you can lock your equipment in it but in this case, also, not in plain view, as it might be in a station wagon. And always carry your wallet with you. At a public campground, always lock your trailer or camper when you leave; the lock is at least a deterrent. Better yet is to spend a few dollars on an electric alarm for the door; it is the entry a burglar will attempt to use, not suspecting it has an alarm. Your outboard should be chained to your boat with a good lock, and your boat chained and locked to the dock. If no dock is available, chain and lock it to a tree on the shoreline. Your boat trailer also should be locked to your car bumper. Even a cartop boat or canoe, unless secured, can be stolen off your car in a parking lot. In a tent trailer, hide your equipment as well as possible under mattresses, in compartments, etc. A thought should be given to insuring your gear, too.

It is lamentable that sportsmen can no longer enjoy the great outdoors without taking measures to protect themselves against outdoor criminals. But it is a fact of modern life. In some states, wardens and rangers even carry Mace!

**WHEN** you're fly fishing and you've forgotten to bring line dressing to make your line float, use the waxed paper from one of your sandwiches, suggests Bill Hill of Langdon, N. Dak. Just fold the paper and run the line through it.

**VINEGAR** should be in your camping kit, writes Mrs. O.W. Prevatt of Jacksonville, Fla., especially when you're fishing. Before

cleaning your fish, dip them in a bucket of water containing a half cup of vinegar. This will remove their slipperiness and make them easy to handle.

**ECOLOGY** tips from Dick Kotis, Fred Arbogast Co.: Pick up old monofilament you find outdoors because birds and small mammals can become entangled in it and die; never allow your gas tank to overflow and pollute the water; do not release unused live bait in fishing waters because some may be carp or suckers which will infest the area; pick up Polaroid scraps because the chemical might cause wildlife poisoning.

**A TIP** for parents who take their children camping or hiking, from Eunice Cooper of Van Hornesville, N.Y. Fasten a whistle to your youngster's wrist or jacket so that if he should stray from the beaten path, he can use it to tell you where he is.

**ACCORDING** to the U.S. Coast Guard, of 1,418 boating accident fatalities in 1970, 23 percent were fishermen. In most fishing cases the boat operator was at fault and improper loading or overloading was the commonest cause, resulting in "instability, limited maneuverability, and dangerously reduced freeboard." Next most frequent fault was disregard of weather conditions.

**BATHING** small children on a camping trip can be a problem. Bill Wilson of Chicago, Ill., solves it by taking along a small inflatable wading pool. It's inexpensive and stores in a small package.

**A PLASTIC** worm will do more than catch fish. J. Bertocchi of Gallitzin, Pa., uses one to mend a hole in his waders, at least temporarily. He melts an end with a match, lets it drip on the hole and harden. It will hold if the material is dry and clean when the plastic is applied.

**FOR CAMP** cleanups, Mrs. Viola Jaeb of Saskatchewan, Canada, slits the side of a plastic sponge with a razor blade and inserts a small bar of soap. After use and the sponge dries, there's no messy soap to handle and store.

**THE PLASTIC LID** of a three-pound coffee can is just the right size to snap over the base of a Coleman lantern, writes George Thomas of Legion Post #1, Omaha, Nebraska. It makes an ideal place to store extra mantles for emergencies.

**MAKE YOUR OWN** Dutch oven for camping, writes John Piotrascke of Kirkwood, Mo. Take two aluminum pie pans, put biscuit dough in one and cover with the other, then place on a slow fire with coals on top.

**ON BOAT** trips, where dampness can get into duffle, pack sleeping bags, clothing, etc. in plastic bags, writes Norm Fleming of Friendship, N.Y. No spray can reach them.

If you have a helpful idea for this feature send it in. If we can use it we'll pay you \$5.00. However, we cannot acknowledge, return, or enter into correspondence concerning contributions. Address: Outdoor Editor, The American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019.



"Maybe with beginner's luck I'll catch a nice fillet of flounder."

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



AUGUST 1972

## IMPROVED G.I. BILL FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF VIET VETS STILL STALLED IN CONGRESS AT PRESSTIME:

As Veterans Newsletter went to press The American Legion was still awaiting word that Congress had at long last agreed on legislation to increase education and training benefits for Vietnam era veterans. . . Over a year has passed since bills seeking adequate increases were introduced. . . The Legion campaigned mainly for direct payment by the VA to the educational institution of 75% of tuition and other fees (up to a maximum of \$1,000 per year) plus continuance of present subsistence allowances and VA direct or guaranteed loans. . . Students seeking to register for school this fall will very shortly have to make the decision whether they can afford to get more education. . . And the VA needs a proper amount of lead time to get programs and funding in action. . . It remains to be seen if Congress can move swiftly enough between the recess for Democratic Convention in July and the recess for Republican Convention in August to enact a justly needed and greatly improved G.I. Bill that will let today's veterans know that they are not second-class citizen-soldiers.

## NEW LAW INCREASES COMPENSATION RATES FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETS:

Congress has passed and the President has signed PL92-328, the Veterans' Compensation and Relief Act of 1972. . . Among other things, it provides (1) an across-the-board increase of about 10% in veterans service-connected disability compensation rates and dependency allowances and (2) authorizes a clothing allowance of \$150 per year for those who wear artificial appliances or braces or who are confined to wheelchairs. . . Increases will appear in checks received in Sept.

Starting July 1, 1973, the new measure would also equalize the rate of compensation paid to both war-time and peace-time recipients. . . At present, peace-time compensation rates are 80% of war-time rates.

## VA BUDGET BILL FOR FISCAL 1973 GOES TO SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE:

The \$11.8 billion VA Budget for fiscal year 1973 that passed the House in May also passed the Senate in June, but with amendments. . . At presstime, the bill had gone to a Confer-

ence Committee to iron out the differences. . . From that point on, the usual procedure is that the conferees agree upon a final version and send the revised bill back to both the House and Senate for final approval, then on to the White House for the President's signature.

## GRANTS FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FOR PARAPLEGIC VETS UPPED TO \$17,500:

Congress has adopted legislation increasing the maximum amount of grant payable for specially adapted housing for disabled veterans from \$12,000 to \$17,500. . . The bill was on its way to the President for signature as this issue went to press. . . The measure also grants the VA Administrator power to adjust interest on G. I. home loans without being tied to maximum interest rates set up by the FHA home loan program.

## LEGION MAGAZINE PUBLISHER TESTIFIES THAT PROPOSED BOOSTS IN SECOND CLASS MAIL RATES WILL BE DESTRUCTIVE:

The American Legion has carried its protest on scheduled postal rate increases to the U.S. Congress. . . Testifying before the House Subcommittee on Post Office and Civil Service, headed by Rep. Morris Udall (Ariz.), Legion Magazine Publisher James F. O'Neil declared the proposed higher rates posed a threat not only to the future of the magazine but also to the financial structure of the parent organization itself. . . Noting that the magazine's annual second-class postal bill in 1967 was approximately \$140,000 and is currently at the rate of \$295,000 per year, he pointed out that mailing costs would exceed \$1 million annually in this decade under the phase-out program recommended by the Postal Rate Commission. . . Mr. O'Neil also warned that a similar problem, regarding rates, faces The American Legion Auxiliary Magazine and Legion department and post publications that are sent through the mails.

## CONGRESS PASSES SWEEPING EDUCATION ACT TO HELP VETS, STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING:

Congress has passed and the President has signed PL92-318, the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, one of the most encompassing educational measures ever adopted. . . It has been compared in scope to the legis-



## VETERANS NEWSLETTER

lation which created the national system of land-grant colleges over 100 years ago. . . Costing in the neighborhood of \$20 billion, it will provide some sort of financial help to every student who cannot afford a college education and, for the first time, provide federal money to almost every institution of higher learning in the country.

Briefly, the new law (1) extends student aid programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, (2) extends the College Work-Study and Cooperative Education Programs for four years, (3) establishes a Work-Study for Community Service Learning Program to provide part-time employment for needy students (with veterans preference for Korean and Vietnam War vets), (4) amends student loan provisions under the Nat'l Defense Education Act by ignoring the income and assets of a veteran's parents, (5) provides for a commission to study the crisis in post-secondary education financing, (6) entitles higher education institutions to a \$300 "cost of instruction" grant per year for each undergraduate veteran who is receiving aid under the G.I. Bill, or \$450 if he is a high school dropout (the school would also have to establish and maintain a fulltime office of Veterans Affairs and carry out tutorial and out-reach programs to help the vets). . . This act is so sweeping that there is something here for almost everyone. . . See a VA education officer for information and assistance.

### HOLDERS OF "V" TYPE NSLI POLICIES CAN PURCHASE PAID-UP ADDITIONAL INSURANCE BY USING DIVIDENDS:

Effective July 1, holders of "V" type term or permanent plan National Service Life Insurance became eligible to use their dividends to buy more insurance protection as paid-up additions to their regular policies. . . It's a simple procedure and no physical examination is required. . . Some veterans may have already received their notice of eligibility and instruction pamphlet from the VA. . . Others will receive theirs in the weeks to come. . . No further premiums are required—just the assignment of all or a portion of already-earned dividends will do the job. . . This additional insurance will also earn dividends and have a cash and loan value too. . . For instance, a veteran at age 50 who gets \$10 worth of divi-

dends can purchase up to \$22 worth of new insurance. . . No need to write the VA. . . Wait for their instructions, then act. . . Veterans who have already received dividends and spent them, can still participate by sending the VA the proper amount to activate the insurance desired. . . For veterans who cannot purchase commercial insurance for one reason or another, this is an excellent way to increase family protection.

### AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE MATCHES UP EX-G.I. MEDICAL CORPSMEN WITH HEALTH CARE TRAINING AND JOBS:

Training programs to help alleviate the civilian medical manpower shortage and at the same time provide employment for veterans with military medical corps background have been in operation for some time. . . Until recently, bridging the gap between the veteran, the training program and the eventual job has been one of the largest problems. . . Now, the veteran who wants training, the physician who wants a paramedical assistant and the clinic or hospital that needs trained medical manpower have a clearing house. . . It's a centralized national referral and placement center which uses automatic data processing equipment to match up personnel with allied health programs, institutions and agencies anywhere in the country. . . Primary purpose is to recruit returning U.S. military corpsmen and others for training and placement in the civilian medical care system. . . The program is funded by the Dep't of Health, Education and Welfare. . . Selectees get paid while in training. . . Interested ex-G.I.'s, doctors and medical agencies should contact: MEDEX Communications Center, 444 N.E. Ravenna Blvd., Seattle, Wash. 98115 for information.

### FIFTH ARMY CORPS SEEKS ARTICLES FROM WW1 AND WW2 FOR MUSEUM:

The Fifth Army Corps is establishing a museum in Frankfurt, Germany to give present-day G.I.'s a sense of the historical role played by V Corps during the WW1 and WW2 eras and seeks articles which reflect its activities during those periods. . . Interested individuals who would be willing to lend or donate such items should first write to: Commanding General, V Corps, ATTN: AETVGC-F, Corps Historian, APO NY 09079.



# NEWS<sup>OF THE</sup> AMERICAN LEGION

AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

AUGUST, 1972

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GORDON GARNOS, NEWS EDITOR, WATERTOWN, S. D. PUBLIC OPINION



## Legion Issues Call For Funds To Aid Flood Disaster Victims

In mid-June torrential and persistent rains—in combination with an errant early-season hurricane named Agnes—lambasted a number of states along the East Coast from Florida to upstate New York causing massive flooding with accompanying loss of life in the hundreds, property damage in the billions and rendering thousands homeless. The photos above show flood damage wrought in the Rapid City, S.D., area in another disaster earlier in the month but they represent what

was repeated hundreds of times over in the devastated areas of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida and New Jersey. The rains were still falling when local, state and national Legion organizations moved into action to aid flood sufferers. At Legion Nat'l Hq, \$10,000 was immediately made available for South Dakota relief from the Legion's Nat'l Emergency Fund. A nation-wide mail vote by the National Executive Committee authorized the request for con-

tributions from Legionnaires to add to the fund and Nat'l Cmdr Geiger issued an immediate appeal to aid flood victims. He named Nat'l Adjt William F. Hauck as Chmn of a committee made up of the department adjutants of Pa., N.Y., Md., Va., S.D., and Fla., to allocate the funds. The Dep't of New York quickly pledged \$10,000 to the fund followed by Alaska with \$500. To contribute, send checks to: The American Legion National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

## Windy City Set For Legion Conclave

Chicago Legionnaires busily completing plans for Legion's 54th Annual Nat'l Convention, Aug. 18-24.

The highest award The American Legion can bestow—its Distinguished Service Medal—will be presented to U.S. Senator John C. Stennis (Miss.), and to DeWitt Wallace, Founder and Co-Chairman of the Reader's Digest, by National Commander John H. Geiger from the platform of the Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place Convention Center, during the 54th Annual National Convention in Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18-24.

The National Executive Committee voted the medal to Sen. Stennis for a "lifetime of service to state and nation" and for his advocacy of a strong national security system, and to Mr. Wallace for a "lifetime of service to mankind" in publishing and for his philanthropic endeavors covering a wide area.

That's only one item of interest to some 3,000 delegates, an equal number of alternates, family members, musical and marching group participants and interested Legionnaires who will start streaming into the big city on the shores of Lake Michigan during the third week in August.

Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley will

officially welcome them from the convention podium and during the week they'll hear remarks from such personages as: Bowie K. Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball; Pete Rozelle, Commissioner of Football; C.A. Hoffman, M.D., President, American Medical Ass'n; Donald E. Johnson, VA Administrator; Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chmn, Joint Chiefs of Staff; George Meany, AFL-CIO President; Robert Smellie, President, Royal Canadian Legion, and dozens of others.

Official delegates and commission members will vote on policy and resolutions, hear reports of national commissions and committees, elect their national commander and national officers for the 1972-73 year and get caught up in the hundreds of activities of a Legion convention.

As News of the Legion goes to press, the major political candidates for the Presidency have not yet been nominated. However, in keeping with Legion tradition in a national election year, invitations have been issued and it is anticipated the nominees will attend. The time

of their appearances is uncertain as of now and the total convention program could possibly change.

Subject to changes, following is a day-by-day schedule of events as currently planned:

- Friday, Aug. 18, Standing Commissions and Committees will meet at the Conrad Hilton Hotel starting in the morning, with the exception of the Contest Supervisory Committee which will hold meetings at the Executive House Hotel.

- Saturday, Aug. 19, Standing Commission and Committee meetings continue. Contest preliminaries begin (see July News of the Legion for sites, dates and times), and Sons of the Legion hold their First National Convention at the Conrad Hilton.

- Sunday, Aug. 20, Convention Commission and Committee meetings begin at 10:00 a.m., in the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Patriotic and Memorial Service takes place there at 1:00 p.m. followed by pre-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee at 3:00 p.m. Drum & Bugle Corps Finals and Parade of Champions begins at 7:00 p.m., at Soldier Field. While judges are scoring competitions the 26th Annual Drawing for the four Ford automobiles will take



place. The cars are donated by the Seagram Posts of the Legion (#807 Ill., #1283 N.Y., and #658 Calif.) along with \$250 which goes to the post of each winner. No need to be on hand for the drawing to win. Just fill out the coupon below and send it in.

• Monday, Aug. 21, Convention Commission and Committee meetings continue. Nat'l Convention Parade starts at 10:00 a.m., from Wacker Drive at Michigan Ave., goes south on Michigan 1½ miles to Balbo Ave. The Official Reviewing Stand will be on the Grant Park side of Michigan where it crosses Congress Parkway. (See map in July News of the Legion.) The Nat'l Cmdr's Banquet begins at 7:30 p.m., at the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton.

• Tuesday, Aug. 22, some of the day-time hours will be occupied with Special Business Sessions in the Conrad Hilton Hotel on four Legion-related topics dealing with veterans needs, youth, defense and international issues, and Vietnam veterans as a class. A Vietnam era veteran from each Legion state department plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico has been authorized to come to the Convention from Aug. 21-24 at National Organization expense for the purpose of attending the Vietnam vet meetings. A poll taken of delegates at the 1971 Nat'l Convention was partly the reason for the somewhat modified format of this year's conclave. The first actual convention business session is now scheduled to take place at 6:00 p.m., (could be revised) at the Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place, when Nat'l Cmdr Geiger calls the delegates to order. Following the close of the evening session and up

to midnight, plans have been made to hold a Host City Ball for registered Legionnaires and their families at the Conrad Hilton. Admission is with the Official Convention Badge (from each registration packet) and payment of \$1.00 per person. There will be music for dancing and refreshments can be purchased at nominal cost.

• Wednesday, Aug. 23, convention business will run in a morning session starting at 9:00 a.m., with a break for lunch then return to business. The Auxiliary States Dinner takes place at Palmer House, 8:00 p.m.

• Thursday, Aug. 24, final convention business session, election of new national commander and national officers, and post convention meeting of National Executive Committee.

Other convention items:

• The Legion's Fourth Estate Award for outstanding public service in the field of communications will be presented from the convention platform to Agustin Edwards, Publisher of the Santiago, Chile newspaper El Mercurio. Mr. Edwards resisted the Marxist takeover of Chile until he was forced into exile. This is the first time the Fourth Estate Award will be given to a foreign journalist.

• The Past Department Commanders Annual Luncheon will take place on Tues., Aug. 22, at the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

• Arrangements have been made for the American Sightseeing Company to provide round-trip shuttle bus service to Soldier Field for the Parade champions on Aug. 20 and to McCormick Place for convention sessions Aug. 22-24 from most downtown hotels. Buses will be marked "American Legion."

• National Convention Headquarters will be in the Continental Room, Conrad Hilton Hotel from Aug. 14-24.

• Legion Auxiliary Convention Headquarters and Convention sessions at the Palmer House.

### International Briefing Tours

In May and June, National Commander John H. Geiger spent 10 days in Europe and two weeks in the Far East on military and diplomatic briefing tours.

In Europe, Nat'l Cmdr Geiger caught up with a 78-member National Security-Foreign Relations Commission tour in Rome on May 23 where he was received with the group in Papal audience the following day. The Commander visited the U.S. Sixth Fleet, got military and diplomatic briefings in the Mediterranean area with commission members and then went on to Germany, France and Luxembourg where he visited U.S. installations and participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at several American cemeteries and shrines. He also visited the cemetery and battlefield at Bastogne where he saw WW2 combat in the Battle of the Bulge.

The Nat'l Security group—which paid its own way on the trip—had its first briefings in London on May 16 then went on to other briefings in Brussels (NATO) and Naples.

The group attended U.S. Embassy receptions in London with U.S. Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg, with U.S. Ambassador to Italy Graham A. Martin in Rome, and with U.S. Ambassador to NATO David Kennedy in Brussels.

In addition to official briefings and functions, group members—some of whom were accompanied by their wives—toured Oxford, Stratford on Avon, London, Brussels, Milan, Naples, Capri, Rome and the Vatican.

National Auxiliary President Mrs. Robert L. Parker, and Miss Doris Anderson, National Secretary, also made the European tour.

Passing through the U.S. on his way to the Far East, Nat'l Cmdr Geiger arrived in Manila on June 6 where he visited with Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and toured Legion posts, Philippine veterans rehabilitation centers and hospitals along with American military and diplomatic establishments in Manila and at Clark Air Force Base.

In S. Vietnam, Cmdr Geiger was briefed by Gen. Creighton Abrams, Commander-in-Chief MACV, and U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. In addition, he visited Vietnamese veteran settlements and rehabilitation centers in and near Saigon and held discussions with South Vietnam's Minister of War Veterans.

The Commander then went on to Taiwan and met with top Nationalist

Mail to:

The Seagram Posts  
American Legion, P. O. Box 4984  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Gentlemen: I am a member of Post # \_\_\_\_\_ American Legion, or a member of Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ American Legion Auxiliary located in (City) \_\_\_\_\_, (State) \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter my name in the free drawings for four Ford Galaxie 500 2-door Hardtops, donated by the Seagram Posts to the American Legion National Convention Corporation of Illinois. Drawings to be held Sunday, August 20, 1972 at Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois. Entries must be received no later than midnight August 18, 1972.

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Legion or Auxiliary Membership Card # \_\_\_\_\_



# Salute to Prisoners of War and MIA at Yankee Stadium on Memorial Day

PHOTOS BY C. ZUMWALT



On Memorial Day, the N.Y. County American Legion, the F. & M. Schaeffer Brewing Co., and the N.Y. Yankees co-sponsored a tribute to U.S. P. O. W.'s and Missing in Action at Yankee Stadium between games of a doubleheader with Detroit Tigers. Big photo shows Legion drill teams and color guards on field as Air Force "missing man" formation flies over. Families of

P. O. W.'s were guests at the event. In second photo, Yankee pitcher Mel Stottlemyre presents ball to youth in wheelchair who is the brother of a P. O. W. Third photo shows R. J. Schaeffer III (center), receiving N.Y. County Americanism Award for his sponsorship efforts from Frank D'Amico, Legion Americanism Chmn (left), and Program Chmn John Morahan.

Chinese and U.S. officials on the island.

His last stop before returning to the U.S. was Okinawa where he discussed major U.S.-Japanese problems with American military and civilian officials and visited American servicemen from Vietnam in the U.S. military hospital.

In Hawaii, Cmdr Geiger got military briefings at U.S. Pacific headquarters, visited with Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Forces, Pacific, and toured the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial, Pearl Harbor and the National Cemetery of the Pacific.

## Jobs For Veterans

According to U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the employment situation of Vietnam era veterans 20-29 years old was essentially unchanged through the month of May. Of the 4.2 million veterans in the labor force, about 3.9 million were employed, 560,000 more than a year earlier, and 310,000 were unemployed, the same level as in May 1971.

Here are some late reports on Jobs For Veterans efforts.

• In Oklahoma, the Legion held its third Statewide Job Fair on June 13. This one took place at the Shepherd Mall in Oklahoma City and attracted between 2,500-3,000 veterans who sought work along with benefit information. A total of 110 employers had booths at the event with 253 veterans actually hired on the spot and about 1,100 more requested to report to employers' premises for further interviewing and processing. Calling attention to a possibly alarming trend, Oklahoma Legion Adjutant C. J. Wright, Jr., notes that a much greater number of Korean War and WW2 vets applied for jobs at this Job Fair than did Vietnam era vets. This would seem to indicate that some older veterans are becoming

unemployed perhaps due to obsolescent skills and now face greater difficulty in finding suitable jobs than younger men because of their higher salary needs and other reasons.

• In North Carolina, the Legion held a Job Fair at Hamlet in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond County VET-JOB Committee and other organizations on May 25. Over 50 employers participated and early indications are that several veterans got jobs out of the 160 who attended.

• In California, a Re-Employment Action Committee has been set up composed of faculty members of the Business Management Department of Cali-

fornia State Polytechnic College, Pomona, and local business and community leaders. REAC grew out of an idea proposed by Rep. John H. Rousselot (Cal. 24th Dist.) and seeks to alleviate area unemployment, affecting as it does both veterans and the aerospace industry.

• In Washington, D.C., the Legion's office reports that 70 major, nationwide employers have indicated they stand ready to participate in Legion-sponsored job fairs which may be held in communities where they have facilities. To join this cooperative list, contact Austin E. Kerby, Director, Economic Division, The American Legion, 1608 "K" St., N.W., Wash. D.C., 20006

## Legion Boosts American Education Week at PTA Convention



At the recent Nat'l Conference of Parents and Students Convention in N.Y. City, The American Legion manned a booth publicizing American Education Week (this year Oct. 22-28), started 51 years ago by the Legion and the Nat'l Education Ass'n and now backed by over 50 other organizations. Shown above is J. Edward Wieland, Legion Director of Education & Scholarship, dispensing program materials. Contact school and PTA officers soon to plan local events. Program packets available from American Education Week, P. O. Box 327, Hyattsville, Md. 20781 for \$3.00 each.





Patient taps sliding door button for easy passage.



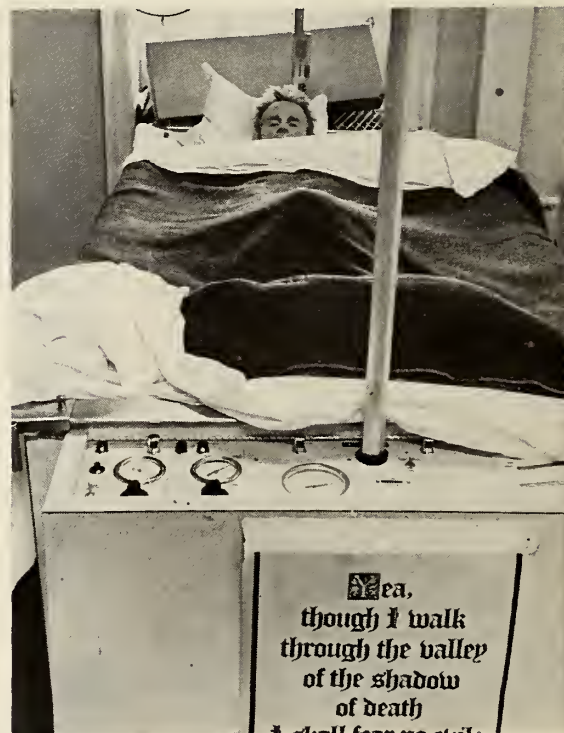
Hand nozzle with control allows safe showering.

## Bronx VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Center Revisited

In September 1970, this magazine published a report about VA hospitals following an article previously published in Life magazine which criticized hospital care of veterans, mostly concerning the Bronx VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Service. Since then—thanks to more funds—the Bronx units underwent extensive remodeling, some of it shown here. As of presstime, two of the four wards had been completely rebuilt and refurbished with the most modern equipment available and were occupied. The other two were scheduled for completion this summer. The pictures shown here speak for themselves.



Legion's Nat'l Rehab Director Ed Golembieski (foreground) and Nat'l Field Rep. Herman Pheffer inspect new, especially constructed washroom facilities.



That's Pete McArdle peeping out from under the covers of the fantastic Royal Air Fluidized Bed. Its mattress is composed of 2,000 lbs of silicone micro particles with air pulsating through from below under constant temperature control. This creates a sterile healing environment and greatly speeds patient recovery, usually with little or no post-operative difficulty. Patients placed poster on control panel of the bed.



Light and airy rooms facilitate patient exams by Staff Dr. Eugene Tortora.



Plenty of space for wheelchair traffic in the brightly lit hallways of new wards.



Legion representatives and hospital officials pause to chat in attractive, new family visiting room. From left: Ed Golembieski, Dr. K. Bogdanski, Ass't Chief of the spinal cord injury center, Herman Pheffer and Ass't Hospital Director Robert Pugh (now retired).



## Astronaut Duke Honored



Moon traveler returns to Post 31, S.C.

It was "Charlie Duke Time" in Lancaster, S.C., recently, when Legionnaires and home folks turned out to honor the Legionnaire-Astronaut and his family. The two-day observance, sponsored by the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, included a special Legion night program for all members of the Duke family, out-of-town guests and local dignitaries. One evening's activities were hosted by Post 31, of which Duke has been a long-time active member.

In the photo, Astronaut Duke, at right, is greeted by Post 31 Cmdr Robert Van Kcuren.

Charles M. Duke, Jr., was a member of the crew of Apollo 16 who, with John Young, spent several days on the surface of the moon earlier this year. Thomas K. Mattingly was pilot of the command module.

Attending were Nat'l Executive Committeeman E. Roy Stone, Jr.; Nat'l Adjutant William F. Hauck, representing Nat'l Cmdr John H. Geiger; Nat'l Public Relations Director James C. Watkins; Past Nat'l Historian John A. May; and Dep't Adjutant James Hamilton, representing Dep't Cmdr Oral Cox, in Europe with the Legion's Nat'l Security Commission.

## The Legion on Memorial Day



Post 344, N.J., honors those who served.

Around the country and overseas, Legion posts observed Memorial Day

with tributes, parades, and new monuments. Post 490, Pittsburgh, Pa., unveiled a new memorial which stated eloquently: "Dedicated to the memory of living and dead of all wars who so gallantly fought to preserve our American heritage that 'Government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.'"

A war memorial was dedicated by Rockaway Township, N.J., Post 344, to honor all those who served their country, including 15 who died in action. The memorial designer and committee chairman, Felix Medore, personally knew nine of the 15.

## Youths See "Ironsides" Turn

Ten teen-agers from five states (Montana, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Alaska) participated in the annual turn-around cruise of the historic "Old Ironsides" in Boston harbor. The 175-year-old USS Constitution, unmatched by any man-of-war in history for record of service, says the Navy, annually sets sail to turn around in order to equalize the weathering of her masts and rigging.

The young travelers' transportation and hotel costs were provided by The American Legion, the VFW, the Employees Sales Program (ESP) of United Airlines, and, in Alaska, the Alaska Navy League.

The turn-around maneuver has become a ceremonial and picturesque event, with tugboats spraying streams of colored water to mark Constitution's passage. Ships in the harbor dip their colors or render traditional salutes.

## BRIEFLY NOTED

A new, 480-bed Veterans Administration Hospital has been dedicated at Columbia, Mo. The \$15-million general medical and surgical hospital will be affiliated with the nearby Univ. of Missouri Schools of Medicine and Nursing. The hospital will service approximately 100,000 of the 28-million living veterans and will relieve existing pressure on the VA hospitals located at St. Louis, Kansas City and Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Among those at the dedication were VA Administrator and Legion Past Nat'l Cmdr Donald Johnson; James Whitfield, Executive Director of the Legion's Indianapolis HQ, representing Nat'l Cmdr John H. Geiger; and Edward Golembieski, Director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Div.

To raise funds for the community, Post 338, Cedar Grove, Wis., together with the Kiwanis Club, sponsored a Holland Festival in late July. Cedar Grove, population 1,200, is located one mile west of Lake Michigan. The village was founded in 1847 when a ship, the Phoenix, with 200 Hollanders aboard, burned and sank

in Lake Michigan. The 42 survivors settled Amsterdam a mile east of the present village. Cedar Grove, named for a 40-acre grove of cedars, was incorporated in 1899. Its citizens have served the United States in five wars. The Festival was also designed to acquaint people with the area's traditions. Activities included a parade, street scrubbing, wooden shoe dancing (and carving), ethnic groups presenting their cultures through costumes, artifacts, foods and dances, etc.

The Dep't of New York award for outstanding service to hospitalized veterans went to James Sneed, ass't Hospital Director, Albany VA Hospital, prior to his transfer to Newington, Conn., VA Hospital, as director. In the photo, l. to rt., are A. Muth, Director, Voluntary Service; E. Delehanty, Past Dep't Cmdr, New York; C. Reilley, Legion VAVS Rep.; J. Lockman, Legion VAVS Deputy Rep.; Sneed; P. Toloczko, ass't Director, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Comm; and R. O'Connor, adm. ass't.



New York award for service to veterans.

Dep't of Idaho posts collected funds to aid the families of veterans killed in the mine accident at Kellogg, Idaho.

## POSTS IN ACTION

Post 38, Japan, raised over \$600 for the Little League program in the Camp Zama and Atsugi areas, and sponsored a slow-pitch softball tournament. The post sponsors an Explorer Scout Post and two Little League teams and is active in drug education and a blood donor program. Post 38 was chartered last December. In the photo, Bruce Buckner, of Post 38, presents the tournament's most valuable player trophy to Bill Scoggins of the Atsugi Flyers (Navy Air Force Team). Others are (l. to rt.) Post Cmdr Ronald Sharp and Robert McCauley, Jr. VCmder.



Post 38, Japan, keeps busy with youth.



## Harold P. Redden, 78, of Massachusetts, Legion Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr, Dies



Harold Redden

Past National Vice Commander Harold P. Redden, 78, of East Longmeadow, Mass., died in Springfield on June 6 after a long illness. In a life of service to veterans and the Legion, he gained national distinction in his years on the Legion's National Finance Commission on which he served for 21 years from 1947 to 1968, being its chairman for the last 13 years.

Though not a professional financial expert, Mr. Redden brought a wisdom and insight to the financial problems of the Legion to which professionals tipped their hats. He was the jealous and tough guardian of the Legion's assets, and saw instinctively to the heart of matters of great complexity—whether they called for spending or saving. Especially in the early 1960's the Finance Commission saw the Legion through critical fiscal times by adroit management under Redden's vigorous, perceptive, hard-headed leadership. Since he retired from the Commission in 1968, successive National Commanders kept him on as their personal representative to the Commission.

A WW1 veteran, Mr. Redden joined and organized Springfield (Mass.) Post 21 in 1919 and remained a member until his death. He was state Legion Adjutant from 1931 to 1938, Alternate National Executive Committeeman in 1932-33, National Executive Committeeman for two terms (1944-47) and National Vice Commander in 1940-41. He served on many Legion commissions before becoming Mr. Finance for the national organization.

He was a retired regional director of the U.S. Veterans Employment Service of the Department of Labor. During WW2 he served as Regional War Manpower Director and he was a former director of the Massachusetts Department of Employment.

Surviving are his wife and six children, including Robert P. Redden, whose firm is the Publisher's (advertising) Rep-

resentative for this magazine. Past National Commanders James F. O'Neil, Daniel J. Doherty and Erle Cocke represented the national Legion at the services. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

RBP

### George Levy Dies

George Davis Levy, 88, of Sumter, S.C., died June 13 after an illness. A distinguished, retired attorney in Sumter, he was for 27 years a member of the Legion's Nat'l Publications Commission. In 1969, at the time of his retirement from the Commission, he was, in recognition of his dedication and services, named the first emeritus member of the Commission.

Mr. Levy was Department Commander in 1928-29, Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1936-41, and in 1963 received the Distinguished Service Award from the Dep't of South Carolina. A one-time vice president of the South Carolina Bar Assoc., he had been president of the Sumter Bar Assoc. since 1955. He was Dep't Judge Advocate for six years.

### Other deaths:

**Frank E. Moore**, 62, of Douglas, Ariz., Past Dep't Cmdr (1949-50).

**Michael F. Murray**, 86, of St. Cloud, Minn., Past Dep't Cmdr (1933-34) and Past Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1939-43).

**Frost P. Patterson**, of Fontanelle, Iowa, Past Dep't Cmdr (1948-49) and a member of the Legion's Nat'l Foreign Relations Commission since 1963.

**C.W. Conklin**, 75, of Lincoln, Neb., Past Dep't Adjutant (1926-29).

**Mrs. Jeanne Payne Williams**, long-time receptionist at the Legion's Washington Headquarters, following a lengthy illness.

Rear Admiral and Legionnaire **A. Vernon Jannotta**, 77, of West Palm Beach, Fla., winner of the Navy Cross and 15 other awards in WW1 and WW2; he was a director of the Jewel Tea Co. and was active in 16 other companies.

**Henry H. Hill**, of Kingsland, Texas, Past Dep't Cmdr (1969-70). He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Theo Hill, the present Dep't President of the Legion Auxiliary.

**Robert James Foster**, of Memphis,

Tenn., Nat'l Executive Committeeman since 1970; he was Dep't Cmdr in 1924-25 and Alternate Nat'l Executive Committeeman in 1964-66.

**Donald W. Schoeppe**, 81, of Eustis, Fla., Past Ohio Nat'l Executive Committeeman (1948-50) and Past Ohio Dep't Cmdr (1946-47).

**Frank K. Orfanello**, 74, Past Nat'l Vice Cmdr (1966-67). A veteran of the Mexican Border Campaign, WW1, and WW2, he served as vice chairman of the Legion's Nat'l Merchant Marine Committee (1959-62), and Nat'l Americanism Council (1962-63). At the time of his death he was a vice chairman of the Nat'l Distinguished Guests Committee.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

**L. Patrick Gray 3rd**, now serving as interim director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has become a member of FBI Post 56, Washington, D.C. He is a retired Navy captain and veteran of submarine service. Post 56 has renamed itself the J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Post in honor of the late Mr. Hoover, who directed the bureau for almost a half century.

**Frank R. Schwengel**, a legion founder who had an active role in the Paris Caucus, named Honorary Post Cmdr by Seagram's Post 1283, New York, N.Y. He is chairman of the board of Joseph E. Seagram & Sons. The post also awarded a life membership to **Edward F. McGinnis**, who retired a few years ago as a Seagram vice president, and is currently a staff member of the U.S. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, in the creation of which he played a major role. He has been active in the Legion since its beginning.

**E. Roy Stone, Sr.**, 87-year-old father of Nat'l Executive Committeeman E. Roy Stone, Jr., of Greenville, S.C., awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Bob Jones Univ. of Greenville. He continues his activities with his son in the E. Roy Stone Co., Realtors. **Roy, Jr.** was reappointed to a second seven-year term on the South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Agency members elected him chairman.

**Daniel W. Shaub**, 74, of Lancaster, Pa., awarded the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his seven years as Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs. He retired in May. Shaub was Dep't Adjutant from 1953-63 and in 1960 was appointed an honorary Past Dep't Cmdr.



## NEW POSTS

The American Legion has recently chartered the following new posts:

Los Alamos Post 545, Los Alamos, Calif.; Maysoc Jarrett Post 198, Flint, Mich.; Granada Post 317, Granada, Minn.; Lawton Crumpler Post 374, Calypso, N. C.; Brookhaven Memorial Post 194, Brookhaven, Pa.; Hershel Mayes-John Dexter Armstrong Post 141, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn. and South Side Post 803, Odessa, Tex.

## COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to do so. Usually a statement is needed in support of a VA claim.

Notices are run only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants, using Search For Witness Forms available only from State Legion Service Officers.

USS New Jersey (off coast of Japan, March 1945)—Need information from doctor who examined gun crew and from comrades of Joseph Leo Newton (attached to 6th Div) who recall that he suffered concussion, nervousness and headaches from 5" mount, which was fired through cutouts directly into 40mm quad, shooting away ship's wireless during enemy air attack. The quad was # 6, portside amidships. Write "CD134, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

187th Reg Combat Team, Support Co. (Han River, South Korea Sept. 1950)—Need information from Sgt. McDade, Pvt McCray, Pfc Maleon or any other comrades who recall that Daniel B. Brennan, who shot an I Co sergeant by mistake, suffered a nervous breakdown as a result. Write "CD135, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Ave. of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019"

## OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion will be held in month indicated. For particulars write person whose address is given.

Notices accepted on official forms only. For form send stamped, addressed return envelope to O. R. Form, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019. Notices should be received at least five months before scheduled reunion. No written letter necessary to get form.

Earliest submission favored when volume of requests is too great to print all.

## ARMY

1st Convalescent Hosp—(Sept.) Robert Hansen, 17220 11th Ave. No., Wayzata, Mn. 55391

1st Gas Reg't (WW1)—(Sept.) Byril Shoemaker, 1901 Schrock Rd., Westerville, O. 43081

1st Special Serv Force—(Aug.) Robert Durkee, Box 851, Helena, Mt. 59601

2nd Trench Mortar Bn, Bat A—(Sept.) Ernest Wickert, P.O. Box 47, No. Madison, O. 44067

5th Medical Bn (WW2)—(Sept.) Raymond Carlson, 1137 Kay Parkway, Ann Arbor, Mich.



Post 299, Belleville, N.J., gave its annual food baskets with complete turkey dinner to 13 needy families. From l. to rt. are John Esposito, John Tortorello, Post Cmdr Gene Thatcher, Adjutant Henry Amato and Rocco Andreottola.

6th Port Trans Corps—(Sept.) Frank Semless, 325 Gerard Ave., Elkins Pk., Pa. 19117

10th Arm'd Div (Western Chapter)—(Sept.) Bernard Connolly, 6554 Altair Ct., San Diego, Ca. 92120

10th Sta Hosp (WW2)—(Sept.) Harlan Epland, 1710 Chaney Rd., Dubuque, Iowa 52001

15th Constabulary Sqdn—(Sept.) Harry Nicholas, 3610 Yorkshire Dr., Arlington, Tex.

18th Eng Rwy—(Sept.) A. W. Walker, 3029 N.E. 26th Ave., Portland, Ore. 97212

20th, 1171 & 1340 Combat Eng (WW2)—(Aug.) George Rankin, 5711 Ave. H, Bklyn, N.Y. 11234

21st Avn Eng (WW2)—(Sept.) Calvin Eckert, RD #3, Box 316, Dillsburg, Penna. 17019

21st Ord (MM) Co—(Sept.) Wm. Koryak, 1919 Pallas Ave, No. Braddock, Pa. 15104

22nd Bomb Gp H (WW2)—(Aug.) S.L. Alper, P.O. Box 1697, Wilmington, N.C. 28401

27th Air Depot Gp—(Sept.) George Takos, 4388 Old Wm. Penn Hwy., Monroeville, Pa. 15146

27th Div—(Sept.) George Rogers, P.O. Box 964, Troy, N.Y. 12181

32nd Div—(Sept.) 32nd Div., c/o Holiday Inn, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901

46th Eng Constr Bn—(Sept.) Lowell Albright, Callao, Mo. 63534

52nd Eng, RTC—(Sept.) A. J. Schill, 739 Revere Rd., Yeadon, Pa. 19050

54th Sig Bn—(Sept.) Russell Robles, 622 Tabor Lane, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93108

55th Arm'd Inf Bn, Co B—(Sept.) Gene Foster, 1401 17th Ave., Eldora, Iowa 50627

70th Div—(Aug.) Clinton Kruse, 5628 W. 18th, Topeka, Kansas 66604

70th Eng Lt Ponton Co (WW2)—(Sept.) David Russell, 51 S. Lippincott Ave., Maple Shade, N.J. 08052

87th Div—(Sept.) Gladwin Pascuzzo, 12840 Wilfred Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48213

88th MP, Cos A & B (WW1)—(Aug.) Albert Meyer, Cumberland, Iowa BX 1125 50843

91st Chem Mortar Co (MTZ)—(Sept.) Adam Repsher, 13 Musconetcong Ave., Stanhope, N.J. 07874

101st Airborne Div—(Aug.) Mrs. Jack Reinhardt, Route 1, Box 115, Maiden, N.C. 28650

104th Cav—(Sept.) Albert Pugh, S-1 1937 Kent Dr., Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

109th Eng, Co B (WW1)—(Aug.) H. S. Seymour, 601 Kilpatrick Bldg., Omaha, Neb. 68102

110th Inf, Co I (WW1)—(Sept.) Peter McAlister, 10 Cuyler Ave., Jeannette, Pa. 15644

113th Eng (WW1)—(Sept.) Glen McCool, 1820 E. Sycamore St., Kokomo, Ind. 46901

114th Gen Hosp (WW2)—(Sept.) A. L. Bordzol, 2603 Price St., Chester, Pa. 19013

116th Inf, Co F (WW1)—(Sept.) Robert Ragland, 3201 Pasley Ave., S.W., Roanoke, Va.

118th Ord MAM Co—(Aug.) Nicholas Tosi, 411 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

129th Field Art'y, Bats C & E (WW1)—(Sept.) W. H. Myers, 5200 Harvard Ave., Kansas City, Mo. 64133

127th Inf Reg't (WW1 & 2 & Berlin Crisis)—(Sept.) John Ciszewski, 4501 W. Loomis Rd., Milwaukee, Wis. 53220

134th Inf, Co F (Mexican Border & AEF)—(Sept.) E. E. Fauver, 408 No. 10th, Wymore, Neb. 68466

134th Inf, Serv Co & Band (WW2)—(Aug.) H. A. Dahlgren, 1011 E. 14th St., York, Neb. 68467

135th/1265th Eng (c) Bn (WW2)—(Sept.) Blackie Batiste, 108 Pratt St., Avon, Mass. 02322

137th Inf, Co B (WW1)—(Sept.) Floyd McGehe, 406 New Jersey Ave., Holton, Kans. 66436

147th Mach Gun Bn, Co B (WW1)—(Sept.) Alvin Geske, P.O. Box 776, Whitefish, Mont. 59937

149th Reg't (WW2)—(Aug.) Marion Williams, 2005 Redleaf Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40222

164th Inf, Co I (WW2)—(Sept.) Melvin Olson, Box 1004 Wahpeton, N.D. 58075

172nd Inf Co E—(Sept.) Elmer Nisley, 13 W. Main St., Hummelstown, Pa. 17036

206th CAC AA—(Aug.) Bill Chambers, 2502 S. Harrison St., Little Rock, Ark. 72204

240th Field Art'y Bn (WW2)—(Sept.) Cecil Davis, 9049 Rushmore Blvd. So., Indianapolis, Ind. 46234

250th Coast Art'y—(Sept.) Victor Carter, 867 Larchmont Dr., Colma, Ca. 94015

303rd Sig Oper Bn (WW2)—(Sept.) F.M. Gum 3rd, Frankford, Del. 19945

304th Inf Reg't—(Aug.) Edward Cain, 45-09 159th St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358

307th Field Art'y, Bat E—(Sept.) Alexander Lane, P.O. Box 216, Gorham, N.Y. 14461

315th Reg't (WW2)—(Sept.) Frank Oczko, 144 N. 6th St., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040

332nd Inf (WW1)—(Sept.) Alfred Streicher, 3168 Angleterre Br., Akron, O. 44312

343rd Gen Hosp (Korean War)—(Sept.) Ray Porter, Rte 89, Interlaken, N.Y. 14847

351st Inf, Co I (WW1)—(Sept.) Chester Comer, Bussey, Iowa 50044

353rd Inf (WW1)—(Sept.) John Hughes, 829 East Ave. B, Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

355th Inf (WW1)—(Sept.) Clarence Benjamin, 706 8th St., Arapahoe, Neb. 68922

405th Inf, Co D—(Sept.) George Kessel, 1200 Cedar Circle Ct., Baltimore, Md. 21228



Albert Maestas (left), Dep't Cmdr, presents Certificate of Appreciation to Brig. Gen. Larry Killpack, Cmdr, Air Force Accounting & Finance Center, Denver, Colo., recognizing achievements in employing the handicapped, particularly handicapped veterans, at the Center and at the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

453rd Motor Truck Co (WW1)—(Sept.) Herbert Wolf, 107 Park St., Pontiac, Ill. 61764

497th AAA Gun Bn—(Sept.) LaVerne Huschka, 2141 Memorial Dr., Janesville, Wis. 53545

508th Eng (WW2)—(Aug.) Jim Sipe, 2299 Mt. Zion Rd., York, Pa. 17402

555th Ord Co (WW2)—(Aug.) Vesper Burk, 724 Wallbridge, Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46241

596th Sig Art Warning Bn, Co C—(Aug.) Elmer Hill, 18 Timber Road, Glen Cove, N.Y.

610th Tank Dest Bn, Co A, 3rd Platoon—(Sept.) Carl Maurana, Box 95, Saegertown, Pa. 16433

611th Eng Lt Equip Co (WW2)—(Sept.) Ed Tippet, 1147 5th St., Clarkston, Wash. 99403

741st Eng—(Sept.) Ira Smith, 1930 Buena Vista Dr., Terre Haute, Ind. 47802

772nd Tank Dest Bn (WW2)—(Sept.) Frank Reynolds, 354 Kalamazoo St., S. Haven, Mich.

775th Field Art'y, Bat B—(Sept.) Walter Carroll, RR 1, Box 244, Anderson, Ind. 46011

809th Tank Dest Bn—(Sept.) Harold Valentine, 200 Evelyn Ave., Clearwater, Fla. 33515

813th Tank Dest Bn, Co C—(Sept.) David Byrd, 209 Windham Ave., Darlington, S.C. 29532

817th Eng (Avn) Bn—(Sept.) Hank Ellis, 232 Auburn Ave., Atco, N.J. 08004

889th Eng—(Sept.) LeRoy Halstead, 415 S. Myrtle, Kimball, Neb. 69145

3483rd Ord Co—(Sept.) Andy Kovacs, RR 1, Lake Side Dr., Sharpville, Pa. 16150

Camp Lockett Rockets (Football Team, Malaria Patients 1944)—(Sept.) Norman Ivers, 1704 N. Main, Del Rio, Tex. 78840

McCaw Gen Hosp—(Aug.) Emit Ward, 4514 SE Woodward, Portland, Ore. 97206

Merrill's Marauders—(Sept.) Thomas Martini, 520 Long Beach Rd., Island Park, N.Y. 11558

Puget Sound Warriors, Coast Art'y Corps (WW1)—(Sept.) Joe Brown, 5325 Florence Blvd. #1, Omaha, Neb. 68110

Vivan Los Bushmasters—(Sept.) Charles Fonseca, 235 E. Washington St., Phoenix, Ariz.

## NAVY

1st Provisional Marine Brigade—(Sept.) John Saddle, 241 Woodland Ave., Morton, Pa. 19070

6th Marine Div—(Sept.) John Saddle, 241 Woodland Ave., Morton, Pa. 19070

10th HQ Co Seabees (WW2)—(Sept.) Kenneth Holt, 208 Mirlynbeth Ln., Fairbury, Ill. 61739

13th Marines, Co I (WW1)—(Sept.) Herbert Hollis, 607 Washington St., Braintree, Mass. 02184

19th Seabees—(Sept.) Herbert McCallen, 97 Lawrence Pk. Cres, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708

33rd Seabees—(Sept.) A.B. Crowder, 1208 Jessamine St., Cayce, S.C. 29033

56th Seabees (WW2)—(Aug.) H.H. Holmberg, 342 No. Oak Crest Ave., Decatur, Ill. 62522

70th Seabees & 1005th & 1006th CB Det—(Aug.) Bob Gunnigge, 237 Dartmouth Dr., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801

82nd Seabees, 519th CBMU—(Sept.) John Williams, 27 Crossroads, Newfoundland, N.J. 07435

105th Seabees (WW2)—(Sept.) Wayne Linton, 440 Colford Ave., West Chicago, Ill. 60185

107th Seabees—(Sept.) Norman Joseph, 2020 14th Ave., Broadview, Ill. 60153

ABSD 1—(July) D.H. Hushaw, Box 36, Colusa, Ill. 62329



## NEWS

Natoma Bay (CVE 62)—(Sept.) Robert Wall, 141 Boynton Blvd., Apt. 6, Daytona Beach, Fla. 32018  
 Society of Signalmen (All SOS, Active & Retired)—(Sept.) David Graham, 8647 Friant St., San Diego, Ca. 92126  
 USS Clay (APA 39, L Div, WW2)—(Sept.) Lawrence Dellasantina, 511 N. Depot St., Sandusky, Ohio 44870  
 USS Doherty (DE14)—(Sept.) Robert Reno, 10480 N. Lynn, Apt. F, Mira Loma, Ca. 91752  
 USS Hazard (AM240)—(Sept.) Louis Malvaney, P.O. Box 9222, Jackson, Miss. 39206  
 USS Mount Vernon—(Sept.) Willard Boyden, Rt. 6-A, Sandwich, Mass. 02563  
 USS Saratoga (CV3)—(Sept.) Doug Alley, 651 Balboa Ave., Coronado, Ca. 92118  
 USS Saufey (DD465)—(Sept.) Renato Dicenzi, 4416 Beta Ave., Newburgh Hts., O. 44105  
 USS Wasp (CV7)—(Sept.) Bill McDowell, 54 Osage Rd., Claymont, Del. 19703

### AIR

22nd Aero Sqdn—(Sept.) Mrs. Arthur McCallum, 2358 South County Trail, E. Greenwich, R.I. 02818



NASSAU COUNTY LEADER PHOTO

As the Legion extensively observed Flag Day, the above scene was forcefully presented at Post 342, Freeport, N.Y. The flag is lighted during the night.

44th Depot Repair Sqdn—(Sept.) Fred Chew, 158 Meridian St., Fall River, Mass. 02720  
 281st & 282nd Aero Sqdns—(Sept.) Norbert Jenkins, 158 Hawthorne Dr., Painesville, Ohio 44077  
 384th Bomb Gp—(July) Frank Celentano, 102 Maiden Lane, New York, N.Y. 10005  
 529th Bomb Sqdn—(Sept.) Myron Erickson, Box 100, Argyle, Wis. 53504  
 American POWs in Romania (WW2)—(Sept.) Robert Schmitz, 6819 E. Mockingbird Ln., Dallas, Tex. 75214  
 North Dakota Air Nat'l Guard—(Aug.) Maj. Stanley Gifford, Box 5536, State Univ. Sta., Fargo, N.D. 58102

### MISCELLANEOUS

988th MP Co (Avn)—(Sept.) John Robertson, 1130 Ashbridge Rd., West Chester, Penna. 19380

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The award of a life membership to a Legionnaire by his Post is a testimonial by those who know him best that he has served The American Legion well.

Below are listed some of the previously unpublished life membership Post awards that have been reported to the editors. They are arranged by States or Departments.

James F. Hughes (1971) Post 27, Apache Junction, Ariz.  
 Thomas E. Taylor (1970) V. W. Dauforth, Bailey T. Goldman, Clint Davis and C. M. Smith (all 1971) Post 171, Lincoln, Ark.  
 D. Mcrow (1972) Post 49, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Marion R. Nimerick (1972) Post 158, West Valley, Calif.  
 Joseph Cutler and Laurance Elliott (both 1972) Post 323, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Harry Harlam (1956) and Earl L. Rausch (1972) Post 560, Long Beach, Calif.  
 Harry Worrel (1971) Post 624, Chino, Calif.  
 Robert L. Hough (1972) Post 689, Mar Vista, Calif.

Eugene G. Gremillion and Laurel E. Holmberg (both 1972) Post 731, San Diego, Calif.  
 Ray B. Benedict, Sr., Paul Brase, W. W. Gaunt, Wm. R. Graves and Geo. E. Miner (all 1971) Post 46, Brighton, Colo.

William Vornkahl and Howard Plasan (both 1970) Post 63, Westport, Conn.  
 David E. Meeker (1972) Post 87, Washington, Conn.

Mrs. Lexey Bingham (1972) Post 150, Hamden, Conn.

Eugene H. Barcus, John F. Shearer (both 1969), Pinkus B. Kanofsky (1971), John J. Devine (1972) and Jules J. Alpern (1968) Post 1, Wilmington, Del.

Scott B. Appleby and Ivar Anderson (both 1972) Post 38, Fort Myers, Fla.

James E. Statham (1972) Post 65, Delray Beach, Fla.

Bruce C. Bamman and Edward Woodstuff (both 1972) Post 104, Pinellas Park, Fla.

William L. Taylor, Jr. (1972) Post 243, Doerun, Ga.

Joseph L. Blessman, Mark S. Coffman, Donald C. Dodds, W. W. Embry and Glenn C. Frazier (all 1971) Post 24, Champaign, Ill.

Emory Storm and Lloyd Walker (both 1972) Post 593, Lacon, Ill.

James Alban Berry (1968) Post 788, Chicago, Ill.

Joseph A. Vertel (1972) Post 1941, La Grange, Ill.

Ernest E. Gilliatt, Harry S. McMillan, Bernard K. Burris, Albert J. Ohrt and Herman Salger (all 1971) Post 475, Garrison, Iowa.

Stanley F. Breaux (1971) Post 235, Gueydan, La.

Seth E. Libby, Carl G. Whitaker and Jackman A. Zande (all 1971) Post 25, Bar Harbor, Me.

Harold A. Dodge, James McGeary, Everett L. Trask and Warren Payson (all 1972) Post 36, Boothbay Harbor, Me.

Reginald Smith and Clyde Wiggan (both 1972) Post 60, Gorham, Me.

Richard W. Yost, Sr., (1972) Post 80, Millinocket, Me.

William E. Morris, Ralph M. Yonker (both 1970), Walter A. Bair, William R. Younker (both 1972) and Randall Barnhart (1972) Post 26, Hancock, Md.

Major E. Hurley, Jr. (1972) Post 91, Cambridge, Md.

Charles Enos (1967), Osborne Fazenbaker, Oscar Halterman, John A. Johnston and James Bonney (all 1972) Post 155, Westernport, Md.

Allison T. Carr, Sr., Frank C. Haley, Harry Conway, Herbert H. Butler and Lawrence Fernald (1972) Post 110, Medfield, Ma.

Dr. Charles Soforenko (1958), Edith E. Johnnene (1968), Fernley R. Wilcox Jr. (1972) Eleanor M. Castle (1968) and William A. Fisher (1972) Post 367, Medway, Mass.

Lyle E. Smith (1972) Post 190, Detroit, Mich.

Delbert Goergen (1972) Post 191, Caledonia, Minn.

Maurice A. McQuillen (1972), Minneapolis, Minn.

Miss John Mildred Sheppard (1972) Post 1, Jackson, Miss.

Eli A. Marcoux (1972) Post 36, Berlin, N.H.

John L. Castle (1971) and Stephen W. Henchey (1972) Post 86, Chesterfield, N.H.

Joseph M. Truck (1972) Post 12, Somerville, N.J.

Stanley Grego (1970) Harry R. Rogers (1970) and Paul E. Rively (1972) Post 175, Rockaway, N.J.

Francis J. Kenneally, John H. Rapke, Leo L. Varner, Lyle F. Clark and Raymond A. Clark (all 1972) Post 24, Rome, N.Y.

Joseph I. Miron and James J. Kelly (both 1972) Post 132, N.Y., N.Y.

Francis Heather, Frank Hohman, Norman E. Williams, Sr., Stephen Wroblecki (all 1971) and Merton G. Thurber (1972) Post 527, Hamburg, N.Y.

Timothy J. Supple and Joseph Hillgardner (both 1972) Post 631, Woodside, N.Y.

E. Byron Gibbons (1972) Post 907, Candor, N.Y.

William O. Chesson and James Lawrence (both 1972) Post 1068, New York, N.Y.

Kenneth C. Martindale, Leo P. Myers, Clarence C. Oot and Walter L. Craver (all 1972) Post 1102, Minoa, N.Y.

Albert L. Capone (1972) Post 1202, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Alex Knapp, Michael J. Matey, Vincent Mee and Francis M. Smack (1972) Post 1254, Binghamton, N.Y.

James J. McHale and Glenni D. Tomb (both 1972) Post 1276, Syracuse, N.Y.



Post 203 Cmdr Warren Barter, Blende, Colo., installs four new members representing the four military branches: (l. to rt.) Crestino Valdez (Army), Robert Peters (Air Force), James Stiles (Navy), and Gary McBride, standing in for Oswald Nira (Marines). All four are recruiters.

James P. Ireland (1972) Post 1369, Staten Island, N.Y.

Erwin Jagow (1972) Post 1451, Sanborn, N.Y.

Willis Griffin (1972) Post 9, Charlotte, N.C.

Alton D. Ledbetter (1972) Post 206, High Point, N.C.

Martine T. Watson and Ralph J. Tysor (both 1971) Post 292, Goldston, N.C.

Vincent T. Miklautsch, William H. Nemitz, Joseph Oster, Louie M. Petski and Wencel Prybl (all 1970) Post 3, Dickinson, N.D.

Frank J. Veverka, Russell D. Wagner, Martin Walker, Archie M. Watson and Paul E. Weiland (all 1970) Post 11, Lancaster, O.

Leonard (Ted) Enold (1972) Post 44, Canton, O.

Carl Henne and Ralph Koons (both 1972), C. H. Skinner and H. O. Parke (both 1971) and Richard H. Murray (1970) Post 323, St. Marys, O.

Elwood F. Fahrenholtz (1971) Post 134, West Chester, Penna.

Allen E. Sveigert (1972), William J. Allison, Derwood Berger, Charles A. Billman and Cyril Gilbert (all 1971) Post 286, Cressona, Pa.

Louis W. Kreiling and Joseph J. G'Angeli (both 1972) Post 640, Turtle Creek, Pa.

Edward C. Stiver (1971) Post 960, Levittown, Pa.

Thomas E. Clingham and Eugene J. Smith (both 1971) Post 57, Providence, R.I.

Arthur W. Waddington (1972) Post 60, Providence, R.I.

Elmer C. Norquist, Charles Rainy, Simon L. Rhoads, C. B. Royer and Dr. W. H. Saxton (all 1971), Post 7, Huron, S. Dak.

D. H. Reatherford, (1972) Post 29, Sherman, Tex.

Edward Phipps (1972) Post 223, Killeen, Tex.

Richard Ross (1973) Post 72, Cheney, Washington.

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They may get form by sending stamped, self-addressed return envelope to:

"L.M. Form, American Legion Magazine, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019."

On a corner of the return envelope write the number of names you wish to report. No written letter necessary to get forms.



Suffolk Co. (N.Y.) Cmdr Rocco Cerullo (at rt.) presents Americanism award to Donald Murch, principal, Francis J. O'Neill School, Central Islip. At left is John Leitch, CI Supt. of Schools. The local Legion and the Moose have also honored Murch and his Americanism programs this year.



# YOUR HOROSCOPE FOR TODAY IS...



how many times have you caught yourself reading horoscopes to find out about your future? Or . . . do you believe horoscopes are just nonsense?

Whatever you think about horoscopes, you must agree that no one can predict exactly what tomorrow will bring. But, it is possible to prepare now, in case anything should happen to you. Official American Legion Life Insurance protection can help make your family's financial future more secure by adding thousands of dollars of extra protection at incredibly low cost.

And only you, as a Legionnaire in good standing and under age 70, can enroll for this valuable protection. If you're under age 29 for example, you can apply for as many as 4 units that will give your family up to \$40,000.00 of protection. Just think how far that money would go toward taking care of your family's expenses.

It's easy to enroll too. The chart below explains your options and the amount of premium to send with your enrollment. If you're in good health you won't even need a medical exam. Remember, you may not be able to predict the future, but you can prepare for it!

BENEFITS AND PREMIUMS—Benefits are determined by age at death. Maximum coverage under this Plan is limited to 4 Units.				
Age at death	4 Units	3 Units	2 Units	1 Unit
thru age 29	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
30-34	32,000	24,000	16,000	8,000
35-44	18,000	13,500	9,000	4,500
45-54	8,800	6,600	4,400	2,200
55-59	4,800	3,600	2,400	1,200
60-64	3,200	2,400	1,600	800
65-69	2,000	1,500	1,000	500
70-74	1,320	990	660	330
Pro-Rated Premium*	\$32	\$24	\$16	\$8

Insurance terminates on the 1st day of January coinciding with, or next following, your 75th birthday.

\*The pro-rated premium indicated provides protection through December 31, 1972 and assumes your completed Enrollment Card will be received by the Administrator (and approved) during August with the coverage effective September 1, 1972. Pro-rated premiums for applications received in September will be \$6.00 per Unit. Full premiums, payable annually each January 1st, are \$24 per Unit.



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Last First Middle Mo. Day Year

Permanent Residence \_\_\_\_\_  
Street No. City State Zip

Name of Beneficiary \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: Print "Helen Louise Jones," Not "Mrs. H. L. Jones"

Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I apply for the amount of insurance indicated below. (check appropriate box or boxes).

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Yes ☐ No ☐ If No, give reason \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you been confined in a hospital within the last year? No ☐ Yes ☐ If Yes, give date, length of stay and cause \_\_\_\_\_
3. During the last five years, have you ever had heart disease, circulatory disease, kidney disease, liver disease, lung disease, diabetes, or cancer, or have you received treatment or medication for high blood pressure or alcoholism? No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give details \_\_\_\_\_

I represent that, to the best of my knowledge, all statements and answers recorded on this enrollment card are true and complete. I agree that this enrollment card shall be a part of any insurance granted upon it under the policy. I authorize any physician or other person who has attended or examined me, or who may attend or examine me, to disclose or to testify to any knowledge thus acquired.

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## TWO BIG COST JUMPS. MENTAL DISEASE CHECKLIST. SAVINGS BONDS' BASICS.

In the months ahead, you may have to cope with certain costs that show a marked uptrend. Two important ones:

**COLLEGE COSTS:** Whether your offspring enters a two-year or four-year college, the total tab is sure to be amazingly stiff this year. If you can't swing it financially, ask the college where to go for help. So many avenues—government and private—now are open that the **chances of getting some sort of loan should be pretty good.** But remember this: families with an income of less than \$15,000 have the best shot at financial support.

**CAR COSTS:** Latest Department of Transportation figures show that you pay an average of 13.6¢ a mile to operate a standard size 1972 vehicle; 10.8¢ for a compact, and 9.4¢ for a subcompact. **This is a jump of around 14% since 1970.** The big rise has been in depreciation and in maintenance.

\* \* \*

The papers are so full of psychiatric and psychoanalytic jargon these days that here's a quick rundown of what it's all about:

To begin with, mental disease (inability to cope with oneself or the outside world effectively) is believed to be caused by 1) destruction of tissue, 2) poison (drugs, lead, etc.), 3) bodily defects or 4) unresolved inner conflicts. **Its highest incidence is right after adolescence or in old age.** The ailment has two broad classifications:

1. **NEUROSES:** These disorders are rather mild and probably stem from a patient's own **internal warfare.** Generally, a neurotic is a nuisance more to himself than anybody else.

2. **PSYCHOSES:** A psychotic is badly **out of gear with his environment and his fellow men.** Some degree of personality disintegration is involved in this serious illness, which has the following main forms:

- **Schizophrenia:** This produces so-called "introverts"—victims relating poorly to the external world, who lose human contact quickly and become more and more apathetic and indifferent. Schizophrenia is the most prevalent type of psychosis.

- **Manic-depressive psychosis:** Exaggerated "extroverts" have this affliction, characterized by wild ups and downs. On the up side, a manic-depressive is excited, overactive and occasionally destructive. On the down side, he's glum, sad and could try suicide.

- **Paranoia:** A paranoiac has vast delusions of grandeur or persecution, yet is able to explain himself with the appearance of logic and reason. Many pseudo-religious leaders and killers fall into this category, which is why it makes newspaper headlines so often.

\* \* \*

**The purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds continues at such a brisk clip that some \$56 billion now are outstanding.** It's worthwhile to remember these basics about them:

- **E Bonds—the discount type you buy below par—now earn 5½% when held to maturity (five years, ten months) or longer.** You can pay income tax on the interest annually, or settle up in one lump sum when you cash in.

- **H Bonds—sold at par—likewise earn 5½%,** but the interest is paid twice a year, taxable in the year received.

- You can convert E bonds into H bonds without paying tax on the accumulated interest of the E bonds. But you have to do it with a minimum of \$500 or multiples thereof.

- If you name a child as co-owner of a savings bond you paid for, the interest is taxable to you. If you make him sole owner, he's responsible for the tax (if any).

- **You can give bonds as gifts, like any other asset** (be sure they're in the donee's name, though). You can make such gifts tax-free up to \$3,000 per year per donee; additionally, you have a lifetime exemption of \$30,000 which you can spread over any number of donees. For a married couple, double these figures.

By Edgar A. Grumcald

## CAN WE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS BY DEMANDING RESULTS?

(Continued from page 10)

be the opposition of organized educators.

In the growing battle of slogans with organizations like the American Federation of Teachers—which adamantly rejects accountability—enthusiasts for requiring results are likely to make claims and promises that can't be kept, thus further clouding the issues. An example of this happened with "performance contracting"—the movement which generated much of the interest in demanding that the schools demonstrate results.

**P**ERFORMANCE contracting" came to nationwide attention in 1970 when a local school district in Texarkana went outside its school system to hire a private firm to conduct remedial reading classes for potential dropout students. The contractor agreed to *ask for no pay* for any students who didn't achieve specified levels in reading. He would use his own materials, hire his own people, approach the students his own way—and take no money if he didn't achieve results. It looked too good to be true.

For a while the results seemed spectacular. Enthusiasts claimed that "good old American free enterprise was doing a job the teachers couldn't do."

Similar companies jumped into the act. At one time there were as many as 30 major sellers of contract education—all guaranteeing results. Some were quite contemptuous of classroom teachers. One company claimed in a national magazine interview that its materials were "teacher-proof." Tape-programmed instruction guaranteed what the students would hear. The theory seemed to be that if the schools were failing it was the teachers' fault, and outside experts could bypass them to achieve miraculous results. The fact is that the teachers are embedded in the system and are almost powerless to alter it in any fundamental ways.

It should surprise no one that teachers reacted negatively to contractors who blamed them alone for the schools' shortcomings. Some refused to cooperate with the technologists. Others became convinced that performance contracting was a definite threat to both their professionalism and their jobs.

Claims and counterclaims escalated. Articles promising miracles were released by contractors, while teachers' organizations claimed they were "dehumanizing" children by teaching them with machines. When Behavioral Research Laboratories took over an entire school under a "money-back guarantee" contract with the Gary, Ind., school board, then proceeded to reduce instructional personnel by half and hire a number of quick-trained helpers, the teachers' unions became almost shrill.



It developed then that in Texarkana an employee of Dorsett, the private firm, had been "teaching to the test." That is, he included in the programmed instruction some items for the achievement test used to determine the payment Dorsett would get. The teachers' unions made much of this. It now appears that testing procedures were so complex and the problem of evaluation so difficult that no one will ever know just how the inclusion of those items affected student performance. Lost in the squabble was the fact that many students whom the schools had failed did improve in their reading.

Meanwhile, other school districts claimed excellent results with performance contracts. The battle of the slogans went on.

**I**N 1971, the Office of Equal Opportunity—not under the U.S. Office of Education and viewed with some suspicion by both teachers and school boards—paid for an experimental program to test the performance contracting concept in 18 school districts across the country. These were one-year programs, and many observers felt they were "designed disasters." That is, they were so structured that the contractors wouldn't show up well. The experiments were marred by teacher resistance movements, slowdowns, contract violations and the inevitable problems contractors face in starting new programs.

When the experiment did not yield the miraculous results predicted by some contractors, it was widely trumpeted that performance contracting was dead, the concept discredited and the rising new hopes for change in the school system exploded.

Actually, the results were intermediate. Although OEO claimed their tests showed that performance contracting was a failure, a study of the results gives a different conclusion.

Some performance contractors achieved very significant gains at reasonable costs. In Gary, Behavioral Research Laboratories was able to bring a number of children up to national reading and math levels—although by no means all of them, as had been hoped. In other districts the results were about the same. Children who hadn't learned, learned; but they did not all suddenly become academic marvels.

In fact, compared to the same amounts of money spent on the traditional school approach, the performance contracts were quite successful. They achieved measurable desirable results for the money, and their programs were so conceived that changes, innovations and new developments for higher effectiveness were possible. Compared to what might reasonably have been expected from the schools for the same money, performance contracting did very well. It was

only in comparison to what enthusiasts claimed would happen that the contractors were dismal failures.

OEO's conclusions on the study were challenged by a New York Times editorial, which said, "The sweepingly negative evaluation by OEO has the earmarks of a subjective, if not downright political, judgment rather than a scientific assessment. It is no secret that the organized teaching profession has been lobbying hard to discredit performance contracting."

When the smoke cleared, most of the newly formed companies had gone out of business. However, others, like Behavioral Research Laboratories, emerged stronger than ever. Although BRL no longer seeks (but will accept) the typical "money-back guarantee" performance contract, the company is firmly committed to accountability for all its materials. It has backed off a little from "money-back" because, it says, the tests of success aren't yet well enough developed.

Others have adopted similar policies. It is now possible for a school district to purchase new texts and instructional courses, have the contractor's experts come into the school and work with the staff to get the best use out of them, and see the results at the end of the year.

Neither performance contracting nor accountable private educational firms have vanished—in 1972-73 there will be tens of thousands of children learning under such programs.

Private contractors have made significant contributions to education methods in such areas as electronic instruction and motivating potential dropouts. Taped instruction in the right hands has enormous advantages. It guarantees what the student will be taught (it's on the tape), and can be constantly upgraded by editing that's based on experience. Private firms and the military are far ahead of the schools in putting it to good use. They have developed sound and workable approaches to instruction across the whole sweep of basic skills. And in every case their success comes back to the same thing—they constantly revamp their materials according to the results, the obvious approach to everyone outside of education.

RAND Corporation, the Santa Monica think tank that began as the Air Force's long-range planning group, recently published a six-volume study of performance contracting. Dr. George Hall, the principal author, says that everyone learned from the experiments. He doesn't think performance contracts will be the

*(Continued on page 44)*

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## CAN WE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS BY DEMANDING RESULTS?

(Continued from page 43)

miracle way to solve school problems, but they can be valuable. The private firms, he says, can introduce changes in a school district—often badly needed changes which the schools can't or won't bring off—and simultaneously give the school districts experience in the difficult job of measuring effort by results—all at a reasonable cost.

OF EDUCATION'S annual \$70 billion, \$56 billion or more goes for salaries. It is the most salary top-heavy of all our multi-billion-dollar activities. It spends less than 1% of its budget on research, in contrast to the 10% to 15% that's usual in industry. Very little educational research ever affects the classroom. Most consists of paper studies that graduate students perform to earn a higher degree. The path from research to classroom is very long, if not blocked entirely, while the usual Masters or Ph.D. research is seldom checked against results as science research is. The fact is that, as a whole, the school system is busier protecting its traditional structure than in seeking *fundamental* improvements. Gimmicks that don't disturb the system are numerous, but any that might indicate the desirability of fundamental changes excite organized suppression. Ironically, the radical founders of the system in the 1930's have produced quite a reactionary bureaucracy today. The reaction against performance contract education was violent in its overresponsiveness to an idea that has a lot going for it.

A few school districts have tried setting aside funds for experimental research that would be tested for results—and it works. The results aren't always spectacular, but they're generally *steady*. Some "disadvantaged" schools have used their Title I federal money for the same purpose, working school by school rather than by districts. I have visited inner-city classrooms using this approach, and usually there's more educational enthusiasm and excitement there than in the wealthy schools that don't qualify for Title I money.

Teachers seem happier, knowing that if they have a good idea they won't have to fund it themselves or forget it—or that it won't be filed away by their immediate superiors. Where private contractors have been brought in they work with the teachers. They've abandoned the "teacher-proof" materials line, and some go as far as to bring in experts to organize a community involvement program for the school. Schools with such research and testing funds have a ferment of innovation often lacking elsewhere.

Another approach being tried in a few districts is "principal autonomy." School principals are given full authority to run

their schools and spend their operating budget any way they choose. They can hire and fire teachers, adjust class sizes, employ uncertified instructors if the principals think they can do a good job, bring in outside contractors and otherwise assume total school management—but they are accountable for the results accomplished. This, in effect, makes a performance contractor of the principal.

"Principal autonomy" is vigorously opposed by teachers' unions, which see it as a threat. In most states there are laws preventing anyone but a "certified professional" from teaching in public schools. This diploma monopoly of education departments is being challenged in a few places, on the ground that if someone can get better results though he doesn't have a credential, why shouldn't he be allowed to teach?

MORE RADICAL proposals can be expected if innovations aimed at results are persistently blocked by non-cooperation of professional educators. The Stull Act, a California law requiring that in 1972-73 every certified teacher in the state must be evaluated for actual contribution to the education process, was originally introduced as a measure to abolish teacher job tenure. This was like waving a red flag in the face of professional education, but when an informal poll by the California Teachers' Association showed that some 80% of the state's voters would favor abolishing tenure, the CTA decided to go along with the Stull Bill, with its amendments, as it finally passed. Other teacher organizations remain militantly hostile to it, though, and some have pledged its destruction.

THERE ARE those who think that no major changes can be brought about until the public schools' monopoly on education is broken. They view the present system as a huge trust of mutual backscratcher who will never budge unless they are forced to compete, the way the antitrust laws made business monopolies compete. One of their proposals is the *voucher* system. Parents would be given their share of education funds as vouchers to pay for their children's education in any school they please—public, parochial, religious or private. The voucher supporters say that it would restore competition in the education business and be the ultimate in accountability. The voucher plan, of course, is opposed by teachers' organizations, and most state legislators consider it a desperation measure.

The literature on the voucher plan is enormous—but it is probably not politically feasible now. However, if voter

(Continued on page 46)



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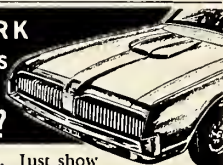
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## CAN WE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS BY DEMANDING RESULTS?

(Continued from page 44)

dissatisfaction with the public schools continues it is going to gain popularity. A limited test of the voucher plan will be implemented in San Jose, Calif., beginning this year.

There is good reason for the public's concern about education in the United States. However, it is questionable whether sudden and radical upheavals will benefit teachers, taxpayers or children; at least let's try something more gradual and well thought out first. Above all, we need a new approach which promises hope, restores public confidence and points to new solutions.

"Results accountability" meets all these requirements. Except to educators, there's nothing radical about it. It's what most of us have to live up to in our work.

By concentrating on *results*, the "performance accountability" concept offers citizens their best chance to get their money's worth from the public schools, and it is probably on its way. THE END.

**Editor's Note:** At the Legion's 50th Anniversary convention in Atlanta in 1969, it adopted the report of a special "Task Force for the Future." The report recommended that the Legion "direct even greater attention to the following ten major problems." The list of problems included poverty and its problems, pollution, inflation, breakdowns in law enforcement and the administration of justice, disintegration of the cities, world peace, etc.

The first item on the list was "the crisis in our educational system."

## W.C. HANDY AND THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES

(Continued from page 17)

from New York. He wandered to Beale Street where his dark skin fitted well into the scene, got into an extended crap game and parlayed that dime into a sizable sum. Before long, Pee Wee was a neat, smartly-dressed young Italian on his way to becoming a Beale Street legend. His business, which included gambling, billard and pool rooms—as well as a bar—was never closed. It became a clearing house for engagements for free-lance musicians, and Pee Wee provided a room in the back where musical instruments could be checked. "Sometimes you couldn't step for the bull fiddles," said Handy. "I've seen a dozen or more of them in there at one time." Now, Pee Wee's became headquarters for Handy's band.

Thornton's Knights of Pythias group in Memphis was a military band, specializing in funeral marches. Handy didn't give up this type of work—each funeral paid two or three dollars per musician—but he organized a 12-member dance orchestra from band members. Memphis already had three established dance orchestras and Handy's at first "stepped out on Beale Street only fourth best." But shortly it was *the* dance band in demand throughout the Delta. In Memphis, it played for enormous Negro crowds on the huge dance floor at Dixie Park, and it was billed as "The Best Band in the South" for fashionable white society in the swanky, uptown Alaskan Roof Garden. It could not accept half the engagements offered to play on Mississippi River excursion steamers.

In 1906, Handy moved his family to Memphis, in time to get it settled before the birth of his fourth child, Florence, who died as an infant. His third child and first son, William Christopher Handy, Jr., had been born in Clarksdale. Two other children, Elizabeth and

Wyer, were born to the Handys while they lived in Memphis.

In 1909, Memphis' mayoralty race was a hotly fought contest between three candidates. Each candidate's managers or backers hired a Negro band to help elect their man by "whooping up his campaign" in the neighborhood streets. Handy's group was hired by a committee for E.H. Crump—later the political boss of West Tennessee—who was running on a reform platform which strictly condemned "easy riders, barrelhouses and dance halls." Handy racked his brain for a new tune that would pull for Crump the sizable vote Beale Street was expected to cast. He came up with a haunting melody to which were added lyrics based on the comments about reform then prevailing on Beale Street. Fortunately, Crump never got close enough to hear the words:

Mr. Crump won't 'low no easy riders  
here  
Mr. Crump won't 'low no easy riders  
here  
We don't care what Mr. Crump don't  
'low  
We gon' to bar'l-house anyhow—  
Mr. Crump can go an' catch hisself  
some air!

The composition was the first tune to contain what in modern jazz jargon is called "a break." It was the first with the transitional musical sounds (suggesting the slurring quality of the typical Negro voice, Handy said) which became known as "blue notes." It carried the same over-and-over wailing that characterized the folk songs in the "back room" of Handy's mind.

The day Handy's well-rehearsed musicians played "Mr. Crump" publicly for the first time, the crowd went wild over



it. They pushed up against the bandwagon on which the band rode and begged that it be played over and over. They waved their hands, tapped their feet and swayed their bodies. In a few minutes, the sidewalks were covered with dancers, not only blacks, but whites who'd stuck their heads out of office building windows to catch the new melody and then been drawn closer. "Mr. Crump" was the real birth of the blues as a distinct, acknowledged, on-paper form.

After the election, which Crump won, Handy knew his song should be published—with some minor changes, of course. He couldn't very well publish it with the title "Mr. Crump" or continue telling His Honor, the Mayor, to "catch hisself some air." "So," he wrote later, "in a mood of warm sentiment for the city that had been so good to me, and in memory of the nameless folk singers who had brought forth blues, I decided on a new title. 'Mr. Crump' became the 'Memphis Blues.'"

HANDY had never had anything published, and the "Memphis Blues" was so "different" that publishers of popular music weren't sure it would "endure." The composition's sequence disturbed them. The endings of the separate strains had no finality except for the last strain. A melody with 12-bar strains that should have been 16, they said, "lacked completeness." They turned the song down.

Finally, in 1912, on the advice of a young white man employed by the music department of a leading Memphis store, Handy decided to pay for 1,000 sheet-music copies of the "Memphis Blues" himself, with the understanding that the music would be put on sale at the department store. He paid \$32.50 for engraving and printing, which was done by a Cincinnati firm, and a dollar for the copyright fee. In due time, the shipment of "Memphis Blues" arrived at the store, but the song didn't sell, Handy was told. He found it hard to believe that Memphis, "which had been in love with the blues for two years in its dance halls," would have none of the pretty blues sheets in their blue jackets. The piece was too difficult to play, he was told by a department store employee and by a visiting New York music publisher who was plugging his own music at the store. Both men assured him, Handy said in his autobiography, that there had been practically no sales at all, and pointed to the nearly 1,000 unsold copies of the song piled there in the store to prove it. When the New York publisher offered him \$50, along with the unsold copies, for all rights to "Memphis Blues," Handy accepted, retaining only authorship credit. The store employee was soon listed on the publisher's letterhead as his wholesale

manager—and the two men made a fortune on the song. It swept the country without monetary profit to W.C. Handy, but it brought him his first real fame. There is no evidence that the store management had any knowledge of the transaction.

According to Handy's autobiography, 27 years after that first printing of the "Memphis Blues" an investigation through the original printer's successors disclosed that 2,000 copies, not 1,000, were shipped to Memphis, half by express and half by freight. Of these, 1,000 copies were sold during the first few days.

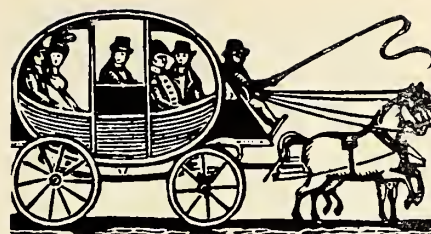
It takes an original copyright 28 years to expire—then it can be renewed only by the author or his heirs. Having sold his original copyright for \$50, it was 28 years before Handy got it back and collected his first royalties from "Memphis Blues."

There were some satisfactions, however. As "Memphis Blues" became popular nationwide, it had what Handy called a "softening effect" on the antagonisms between the two-thirds white and one-third black population of the city in which it was born. One judge said in a public speech, "Why, the 'Memphis Blues' has done more to advertise Memphis than all the publicity emanating from the Businessmen's Association." One prominent man noted that Tennessee had never spent a dollar contributing to the musical education of a Negro, and a campaign to correct that situation began. For W.C. Handy, that was enough to make him feel "enraptured." He had other songs in his head and was wiser now.

With four children at home, he rented a room for his composing in the Beale Street section.

One night in 1914, while in search of a song, he slipped into a reverie about his first trip to St. Louis, when he'd slept on cobblestones along with others in hard luck, one of whom had lamented, "I hate to see the evenin' sun go down." And he remembered a woman, drinking heavily, who'd moaned as she'd staggered by, "Ma man's got a heart like a rock cast in de sea." By daylight he'd written the "St. Louis Blues." Later in the day, working on Pee Wee's cigar stand, he orchestrated it, jotting down scores for

(Continued on page 48)



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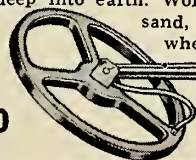
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## W.C. HANDY AND THE BIRTH OF THE BLUES

(Continued from page 47)

his band. A few hours later, W.C. Handy started leading his orchestra on the Alaskan Roof in the first public rendition of the "St. Louis Blues." He watched the people on the floor and "saw the lightning strike. The dancers seemed electrified." His "new, low-down blues" was an instant success.

Earlier, Handy and Harry H. Pace, cashier of a Memphis Negro bank who also wrote lyrics and was a vocal soloist, had collaborated on several songs. They'd finally become partners in "Pace & Handy Music Company—Publishers." The company had published a few minor songs and now, in 1914, it put out the "St. Louis Blues." The first 10,000 copies sold readily enough, even without promotion, and the little firm seemed to be doing all right. But Handy wasn't much of a businessman, while Pace soon became secretary-treasurer of the Standard Life Insurance Co., and moved to Atlanta. This left Pace little time for tending to business in Memphis, while Handy was largely taken up with other things. He was composing new songs—among them, the "Jogo Blues," originally called "The Memphis Itch"—and keeping 60 musicians in a dozen bands busy. He toured with some of them in rural areas, played regularly with one on the Alaskan Roof and in a local country club, and gave concerts off and on. For all this, he still found himself in debt and close to losing two cottages he'd bought in Memphis. In later years he said he guessed he'd put his money "in a sock with a hole in the toe," but others said he was forever doling out his money to struggling Negro musicians who were hard up. Meanwhile, the full potentialities of "St. Louis Blues" lay dormant for want of attention.

Handy's brother, Charles, 16 years younger than W.C., had moved to Memphis to manage the Beale Street office. Charles was never a musician but he eventually proved invaluable as a business partner.

IN 1917, the struggling publishing firm put out a new song of Handy's called "Beale Street" (later renamed "Beale Street Blues"). Handy, broke as usual, was playing at the Colonial Country Club in Memphis one night—hoping the orchestra would be asked to play overtime so that each player could make an extra dollar—when he was called to the phone. It was his brother Charles telling him that the night mail from Chicago had brought a check for \$1,857 royalties for "Beale Street." As he hung up the phone, the club manager asked the band to play an extra three hours. Handy agreed, since the other musicians did not have a royalty check waiting for them. He said later that it was the longest, hard-

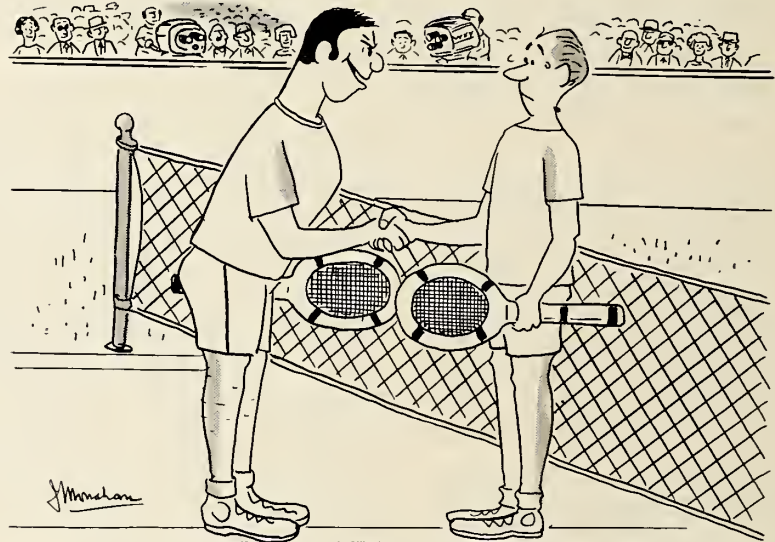
est three hours he ever played in his life.

During the following weekend, \$6,000 in royalty checks poured in to Pace & Handy Music Company. But, on Monday, Handy was off with his orchestra on a six-dollar-a-man, two-night engagement in rural Arkansas.

"Beale Street" was inspired by a Negro piano player in the Monarch, a Beale Street saloon. He was hired to play without stopping from early evening until five in the morning. This he managed by playing with one hand at a time. Handy's song, with its "left-hand melody," shows the influence of the saloon pianist, whom Handy considered a true artist.

Early 1918 found W.C. Handy in New York trying to rent office space and "being given the runaround" because he was a Negro. He finally rented a five-room office in the Gaiety Building on Broadway and the firm of Pace & Handy—Harry Pace, president, Charles Handy, vice-president and sales manager, and W.C. Handy, secretary-treasurer and office manager—swiftly grew prosperous. In time, it moved to finer quarters, taking over an entire building at 232 West 46th Street. Among the company's customers were Woolworth, Kresge, Kress and McCrory, and its offices were frequented by Broadway celebrities seeking new music.

"A Good Man is Hard to Find" was



"My congratulations are for the benefit of the TV and the spectators. When we get in the locker room, I'll punch you right on your nose!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Late in 1917, an incident occurred that freed Handy for full-time composing and publishing. He and his band were playing in Atlanta and were booked to go from there to the University of North Carolina. But the band members forced Handy to cancel the Carolina engagement. They'd made a lot of money in Atlanta and they wanted to go back to Beale Street and spend it. Handy disbanded the group then and there. He forever afterward turned down all offers to lead bands.

Harry Pace had been saying for some time that Handy should move his family and the music company to New York and concentrate on publishing and promoting songs, particularly "St. Louis Blues" and a song written by Eddie Green which the company was bringing out, "A Good Man is Hard to Find." Handy at last agreed and started working toward that end, while Pace went about the business of resigning from his position in Atlanta so he could follow.

a sensation on Broadway, and "St. Louis Blues" caught on like wildfire when it was finally promoted—particularly after Victor recorded it. Sophie Tucker sang it in vaudeville and Gilda Gray included it in revues. As the years passed, literally every recording and piano-roll company issued and reissued Handy's masterpiece. In time there were more "St. Louis Blues" records sold than any other piece of music, popular or serious. Even in the last years of Handy's life, he reportedly received \$25,000 annual royalty on the song.

W.C. Handy wrote many, many more blues songs. Among the best were "Joe Turner Blues," "John Henry Blues," "Harlem Blues" and "Sundown Blues."

In 1920, Pace withdrew from the publishing company to organize the Pace Phonograph Company and the older concern became Handy Brothers Music Company. The postwar depression of the 1920's hit the music publishing business hard and nearly ruined W.C. Handy.



Woolworth alone discontinued some 600 music departments, leaving the publishing company with over 300,000 copies of ten-cent store music on its hands. Handy was advised by his lawyers to go into bankruptcy, but he refused to do so. He sold his beautiful residence on 139th Street, moved his business back to smaller quarters in the Gaiety Building, and worked so hard paying off his obligations that he wrecked his health and temporarily lost his sight.

"With the help of many mighty fine friends, [I] came out of those calamities in fine shape." As he made a comeback, and throughout his later years, he turned to sacred music: "Steal Away to Jesus." "I've Heard of a City Called Heaven." " 'Tis the Old Ship of Zion." "Stand on That Sea of Glass," "Sunday Morning Band," "Been A-listening All de Day Long," "I Want to Be Ready," and many other spirituals and hymns. He edited several volumes, including "Negro Spirituals and Songs" (1926), "Blues: An Anthology" (1926), "Book of Negro Spirituals" (1938), "Negro Music and Musicians" (1944), "Unsung Americans Sung" (1944), and "A Treasury of the Blues" (1949).

In 1941, he wrote his autobiography, "Father of the Blues," a book about a big, roly-poly man whose memories rang with song and dance and laughter. The book ends with a prayer of Handy's mother's on which the composer liked "to hang a memory." "Lord, I thank Thee that we are living in a Christian land and a Bible country," and with the simple statement, "God bless America."

Handy returned to Memphis as one of its distinguished sons many times after he moved to New York. Eloquent tribute was paid to him in places varying from Carnegie Hall to a high school stadium in Memphis during "Blues Bowl" ball games, and including, in 1939, the New York World's Fair.

His first wife died in 1937. In 1954, he married his secretary, Irma Louise Logan. She was by his side when he died in New York City on March 28, 1958, at the age of 84. So were his children and his brother Charles. Handy Brothers Music Company in New York is still operating, but Charles Handy, nearing 83, has retired, and W.C. Handy, Jr., heads the firm.

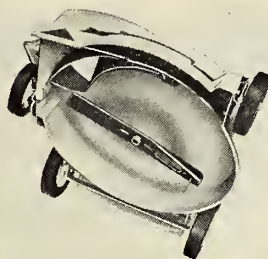
There have been many things named after William Christopher Handy—theatres, schools, a foundation for the blind, and, in Memphis on Beale Street, a public park with a huge bronze statue of the extraordinarily gifted Father of the Blues. One of the first new American Legion Posts chartered in 1972 is W.C. Handy Memorial Post 333, in Handy's hometown of Florence, Ala. But he left behind his own best memorial—the sounds of the blues and their influence on world music.

THE END

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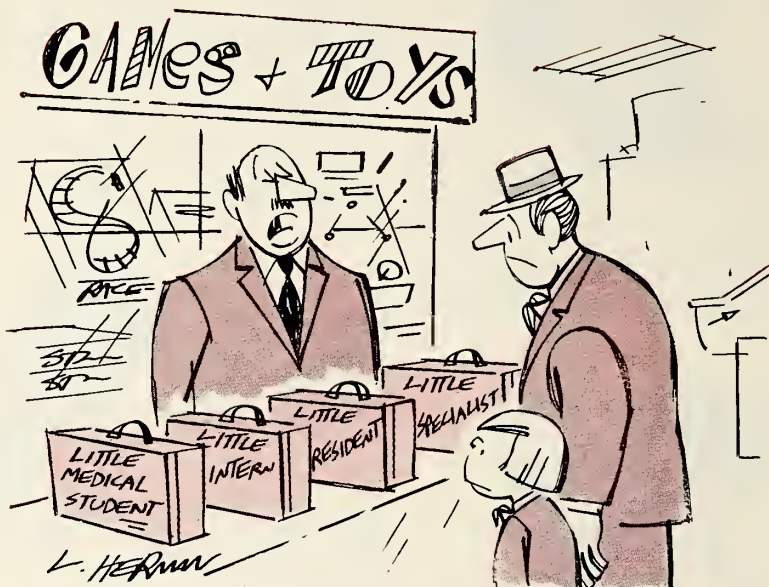
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# PARTING SHOTS



"I'm sorry, sir—I'm not allowed to sell him the 'Little Intern' kit until he completes four years with the 'Little Medical Student' kit!"

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

## THINK ABOUT IT

A young man had just graduated from university as a mathematics major and had gone to work for a large company engaged in research. On his first day in his new job, a man who was unknown to him came up and gave him a problem to solve: two microbes were placed in a gallon jar at exactly 10 o'clock. The number of microbes doubled itself every second. The jar is exactly full at 11 o'clock. At what time was the jar half-full?

The young mathematician sat down at his calculating machine and started work, and his answers were getting astronomical when an old timer in the office tipped him off to the prank by pointing out that the answer was: one second to 11 o'clock.

DAN BENNETT

## TURN AROUND IS FAIR PLAY

Mrs. Perkins had been after her husband for weeks to turn the living room rug around so it would wear evenly. He would give compliant husbandly grunts but the rug remained unturned. Finally one weekend, when he was busy out in the garage, she laboriously moved the furniture, turned the rug and restored the arrangement of the room. Then she had to go on an errand. When she came back, her husband greeted her, smiling smugly.

"I bet you thought I'd forgotten," he said. "While you were out I turned the rug for you."

F. G. KERNAN

## IF . . .

If all the environmental meetings were canceled for one month the lessening of carbon monoxide in the air would be noticeable and the lack of reports on the meetings would be a blessing.

If all the war-on-poverty meetings were canceled for one month and the cost of the meetings donated to the poor we'd all be richer.

If all the government body meetings were canceled for one month everything would become clearer.

And if you're still reading this you need something to do. Go out and cancel a meeting.

BOB LITTE

## WILBUR'S HANDICAP

Proud Wilbur was a Ph. D.,  
He'd read three thousand books,  
He lectured on ecology,  
He loved the spring-fed brooks.

His students were indeed impressed,  
So brilliant was his intellect.  
But when he ventured on the course  
He always lost his self-respect.

Poor Wilbur rarely parred a hole,  
He couldn't putt for beans;  
You'd think he was illiterate,  
He couldn't read the greens.

PAUL MADISON

## BATTY STORY

Vampire: a hemo goblin.

LAKENAN BARNES

## MY SECRET

My neighbors and friends are astounded  
(they say)

At how calmly I handle my "brood."  
With company coming to visit today  
They vow they would all "come un-  
glued."

The children are quarreling; I still have  
to clean;

And my cake turned out hard as a rock!  
But, it's easy as pie to look calm and  
serene

When you've already gone into shock.

BARB BROWNING

## PROGRESS

The old narrow trails where two cars could  
barely pass without colliding are being re-  
placed by expensive wide highways where  
six or more cars can collide at one time.

WILFRID BEAVER



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The latest gimmick at Maxine's  
Massage Parlor is to offer customers  
her own brand of roll-your-own  
filter cigarettes.

Now everybody will be smoking  
Maxine's roll-your-own filter cigarettes ...almost everybody.



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**Camel Filters.**  
**They're not for everybody.**  
(But then, they don't try to be.)

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined  
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

19 mg. "tar," 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report APR. '72.

